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WEEKLY PEOPLE

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SOCIALIST THOUGHT

CALLED UP ON REVIEWING EVENTS OF A WEEK

Shortcomings of Reform—Trouble as Lewis, Miners' President, Sees It—Hypocrisy of Congressional "Reformers"—Exposed—Bryan Barks at the Moon.

The fact that the building of the Chamber of Deputies in Mexico City was burned to the ground on March 3rd, without fatalities, but utterly destroying the archives and records for the past twenty-five years, may pass unnoticed to-day. The day is, however, at hand when the event will be found to be important. Recently, in our country, corporations under investigation were saved a deal of trouble by a timely fire which, without any fatalities (God Capital always protects his pets), "utterly destroyed books, papers and records." The same Black Hand lies on both countries.

Jules Guesde's Paris "Le Socialiste" quotes from a contemporary a passage that has singular application to what Congress is now doing in response to the demands of "reformers"—

"The reformer rarely gains his end. He puts me in mind of a certain starling who knocked at the door of a house and requested the woman who opened the door for something to eat. She went down to the cellar and returned with a pair of old shoes. He looked from the one to the other. 'Madam,' said he, 'I can not accept them: I am a vegetarian.' This is the reformer's plight. 'What does the freedom of commerce,' protection, high or low tariff, the abolition of child labor, 'municipalization' or 'nationalization'—what does any one of these concern you, workmen, the class which produces all wealth, if you receive but barely your own cost of production? Not an iota."

Commenting upon the passage in the address on Thibet, delivered in Berlin by Sven Hedin, to the effect that in Thibet sometimes three men have two wives in common, the Berlin "Vorwarts" observes that the Berlin bourgeois, who likewise practice polyandry, were not startled in any wise. Neither would the sanctity of the family observing American bourgeois.

M. Jusserand, the French Ambassador, accompanied by Madame Jusserand, was one of the diplomats to see Roosevelt off on his steamer. The ambassador is reported to have exchanged a few confidential words with the ex-President. What they said is not reported. Judging from the looks of Roosevelt and the ambassador, and inferring their words from the motion of their lips, these were the short sentences they exchanged:

R.—"What's the matter with the postal employees of your country?"

J.—"Oh, Monsieur le ci-devant President! Those yellow are utterly oblivious to the salutary maxims you, taught and enforced, and which the postal employees of your country have learned to live up to—submissiveness to official knacks."

R. and J.—"Alack!" "Mon Dieu!"

Whoever reads Theodore Roosevelt's article on Socialism in the "Outlook," and remembers the utterances of the identical gentleman, made in 1896 when he was the Republican candidate for Mayor in this city against the then Labor nominee Henry George, whom he took for a Socialist—those who compare the two sets of statements must agree that the "Outlook" article is not so much on Socialism as it is on Roosevelt, and the thing may be summarized in the short sentence: "My purpose is to prove in 1909 that I have learnt nothing since 1896." The proof is conclusive.

Daniel D. Friable, Assemblyman from Schenectady, contributes his mite to the Socialist warning not to be carried away by the word "Justice," however loudly cried, and always to look back of the cry, and ascertain the special material interests that the cry happens to be the reflex of. Assemblyman Friable makes his contributions in the shape of a resolution pronouncing "most unjust" the proposal made in Congress to tax inheritance. Speaking for the heir of \$10,000, 000 who would have to pay \$100,000 tax, and be left with a pittance of only \$9,900,000 the justice-loving Friable justly indignates.

"If there is any trouble," President T. L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers of America is reported to have said at

the adjournment of the recent convention in Scranton, "those miners who are not members of the Union are to blame for it." Such an utterance sounds oracularly mysterious. It is, however, mysterious not at all to those to whom the fact has not escaped that, whatever set of propositions President Lewis has made to the operators, one demand was ever there—the demand that the employers perform the function of financial secretaries to President Lewis's Union by checking-off the men's dues from their pay-envelope. From which this state of things appears—the bulk of the miners have no use for Lewis's organization; the only way to get them in and keep them there is to have the employer whip them in line; one time the employer found his account in doing so; that time is passed. With the bulk of the men beyond Lewis's control, there is sure to be trouble for Lewis, and the trouble will come, not from the members, but from those who are not members. Right is Lewis.

If the national organization of the Socialist party takes the tip given by the Ohio organization, it will remove its headquarters to Washington. The Ohio S. P., in State Convention assembled at Columbus this month, decided to locate its headquarters at Columbus for the reason that "the party officers would be on the ground and be able to lobby in the legislature on primary and other bills." Seeing that S. P. men among the lithographers are promoting petitions to Congress in favor of a high tariff "in the interest of labor," it is clear that these lobbyists should have permanent headquarters in Washington to extend the sphere of their—degradations.

It must be admitted that Senator Nelson and others in Congress, who set their faces like flint against factory provisions restricting child labor and other legislation in the interest of the workers in the District of Columbia, come out in a pretty good light after the revelations made concerning the girls employed in the Federal Bureau of Printing and Engraving. It turns out that these girls are really sweated, to the tune of sweated starvation wages, and in working localities that undermine health. The revelations prove the "reformers" in Congress to have been a lot of hypocrites. In shops over which they have complete control, and where they could improve conditions, they leave bad enough alone, but seek the glory of reformers in shops over which they have nothing to say. Among a lot of rascals the bold bad ones stand in better light than the crawling bad ones.

Bryan angrily denounces the twenty-three Democrats who did not stand against Joe Cannon as men who "can not say they did not know." Of course they cannot. They know—and so does every mother's son, Republican and Democrat, know just what he is doing. Each is looking out for himself by the light of his knowledge, and trimming accordingly.

How familiar the note! Manila dispatches announce that the leaders of the strike against the Manila street railways have called the strike off, and that these leaders "have announced plans to reorganize along lines which will lead to great sympathy between labor and capital." The dispatches break off right there. What is left unsaid is that the Union in question are rotten-ripe for the A. F. of L.

Judge Charles C. Nott's book, "The Mystery of the Pinckney Drought," devoted to proving that the Constitution of the United States was substantially taken from a draught presented by the South Carolina delegate Pinckney to the convention which framed the Constitution, proves in fact that the Notts and their critics have not yet emancipated themselves from the savage ancestral mental status of fetish worship. What does all this minute inquiry into the sources of each separate clause and word in the Constitution prove but that these gentlemen worship the Constitution as a fetish, imagining that it is the cause of the country's wonderful development! Our clothes react upon us and contribute to what we are; that is true; but our clothes are not the source or the cause of us. Men make their clothes, not their clothes them. Emancipated bourgeoisie made the Constitution, not the Constitution the triumphant bourgeois rule of to-day.

Christian Rudowits, the Russian political refugee whom the Czar tried and failed to pull out of the United States, having been approached with a bribe by the Socialist party to leave the Socialist Labor Party, refused. Even if Rudowits

THE EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES ON!

Everyone remembers that keen story of Hans Christian Andersen's, in which a self-satisfied ruler takes off one garment after another, and then believing himself most gorgeously clad in mystical raiment, struts forth in parade, until one little innocent cries out "Why, the emperor has no clothes on!"

Like emperors, which embody and epitomize their systems, may be systems themselves. For two centuries the Old Regime in France kept at the task of disrobing itself, casting off successively the garments of honor, nobility, humanity, etc., it had in its early days striven to wrap itself in, till at last the people cried "Why, the Old Regime has no clothes on!" and abolished the Old Regime.

At this present day another system, in another land, America, is going through the identical process.

One garment it had, that of justice

and equity. But the evidences of class rule and class discrimination became too manifest to be denied. It was even seen that the worker received less than one-quarter of his product. Off came the coat of justice and equity.

Bountiful this system claimed to be. Then developed the chronic unemployed problem, thousands dying of tuberculosis caused by underfeeding, whole families committing suicide because they could not get food, a virtual famine in the land, although there was plenty in the storehouses. Off came the vest of bountifulness.

Humane did this system pretend to be. But those who looked with eyes to see beheld lapping children driven to work in mill and mine, adult men and women exploited to the last limits of human endurance, pitiless speeding up and pitiless disregard for them when worked out being the badge of their

servitude. Off came the system's shirt of humanity.

One last garment it clung to, long and desperately clung to—its unmentionables, which it called law-abidingness. Then issued government reports of meat packing, canned goods poisoning, western land frauds, eastern bank scuttling, middle-western capitol grafting, New York policy-holder robbing, San Francisco dive-keeper preying, Panama Canal scandals, Tennessee Coal and Iron Co. absorptions—till at last there was not a law on the statute books of the land through which a coach and four had not been driven. Off came the trousers of law-abidingness.

Naked now stands the system, its last shreds of assumed respectability discarded, its last excuses for enduring thrown to the winds.

The system of capitalism "has no clothes on." Soon will the workers recognize it for what it is, and bury it.

GILLHAUS MEETINGS

NATIONAL ORGANIZER S. L. P. DELIVERS THREE LECTURES IN MINNEAPOLIS.

Audiences Well Pleased with Masterly Addresses and Show Approval—Gillhaus Staunchly Defends Use of Ballot and Routs Opponents.

Minneapolis, March 21.—August Gillhaus, National Organizer of the Socialist Labor Party, held three finely attended meetings in Minneapolis on the evenings of Tuesday, March 16th, Wednesday, March 18th, and Saturday, March 20th.

The first meeting was held in Union Temple and the speaker took for his subject, "The Working Class, Its Mission and How It Must Organize to Fulfill It." The speaker vividly portrayed the effect of the capitalist system of production upon workingmen, the effect of machinery on them, the appearance of the army of unemployed, the growth of woman and child labor, and he touched upon many other points of vital interest to the proletariat.

The burning question of unionism absorbed the greater portion of the speaker's discourse. Gillhaus showed that the industrial form of unionism has sprung into existence as a direct outgrowth of modern industrial conditions under which whole industries are owned and controlled by one set of capitalists through the medium of a trust or combine. He also showed how the craft union, through its connection with the Civic Federation, can become a party to one-sided "arbitration" schemes and to "craft agreements," and a means of preventing the aspirations of the working class being realized, while it strengthens the power of the capitalist class to oppress it.

When questions were called for those put to the speaker mainly revolved around the question whether the revolutionary army intending to "take and hold" the means of production could best be recruited by rejecting the civilized method of settling social disputes, and adopting instead the principle of physical force only, or should the economic body project its own political party and teach and proclaim its purpose to take and hold freely and openly. The speaker answered the question tersely and showed his auditors what the power of a political body was. He contrasted this power with that of a body that preaches physical force only. His answers were enthusiastically received by the audience.

The meeting of Thursday evening was held in Arcade Hall, 1311 Washington avenue, and this was also well attended. The subject was "The Relation of the Socialist party and the Socialist Labor Party to the Labor Movement."

After the Thursday night meeting the information was imparted to Socialist Labor Party men that the local adherents of Bush Temple "I. W. W." Chicago, would be out in force Saturday night. They came, but if they never show any greater amount of mental force than they packed into Union Temple with them Saturday night, a benighted proletariat will be indebted to them for a little in the way of enlightenment.

The "Kangas" in their palmy days never asked such insane questions nor showed themselves so devoid of knowledge. Gillhaus disposed of them with the ease and expedition much to their dis-

comfiture, but greatly to the amusement of the workmen who attended.

One valiant paladin of veiled dynamism whose knowledge of facts and events is hardly commensurate with his aspirations to pose as the precursor of workingmen startled the Socialists present by inquiring what good political action could do the workers, and why we should advocate it when we had before us the horrible example of those whom revolutionists, Clemenceau of France and Samuel Gompers, English prototype John Burns, turning against the workers when they entered office. The fact that leading unionists have also turned bad when they held office entirely escaped this intellectual pinhead.

Another thought that the carolling of "I am a Bum" lent particular dignity to the proletarian movement, and wanted to know why the S. L. P. should object to their anthem being popularized.

Gillhaus answered that the ballot was the civilized method of settling disputes. A Bush Templar volunteered the information that he was tired of civilization anyway, and, indeed, to watch the antics of this tribe in public assemblage one cannot help being struck with the notion that civilized ways are ill suited to them.

Press Committee, Section Minneapolis.

Read the ad. "Time Extended," and get a copy of the book, 630 pages, cloth 30 cents.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY IN ST. LOUIS.

Issues Statement on Spring Elections to Workingmen and Voters.

To the Citizens and Workers of St. Louis:

The Socialist Labor Party will not appear on the official ballot in the spring election April 6. The reasons for this are several. A small group of members has been carrying on a vigorous campaign among the working class. To do this costs money, and a great deal of work is necessary. The money all comes out of the pockets of the small group of workingmen. Some of the most active members have been thrown out of employment by the recent panic; others were compelled to leave the city, seeking employment elsewhere; others again were overtaken by sickness in their families. So the necessary work of gathering signatures on our petition was left to a comparatively few to whom also fell the other necessary work. The result of all this was that we were unable to meet the legal requirements which are demanded by the election laws.

However, the Socialist Labor Party, not being a "vote-catching" party, is not deterred in its work because of such handicap. We will work so much the harder, and we ask you workingmen and friends of Socialism not to leave the work to a few, but that you all assist us in the work of emancipating our class, by joining the Socialist Labor Party.

Times are such that the workers must begin to think of their situation. The Socialist Labor Party does not meddle with reforms. The Party is aware that reforms only mislead the working class and run the principle of Socialism into the ground. Reforms, when seen in their true light, are not reforms at all, and some reformers join the ranks of Socialism for the purpose of riding into a well paid office. The Socialist Labor Party has demonstrated this fact time and again; still we see a member of the

so-called Socialist party here thankfully accept the indorsement of the Republican party as a member of the School Board.

Now, the Socialist Labor Party has only this to state to the workers of St. Louis, that they should do their own thinking, and not be misled by such actions of a would-be Socialist. As nothing can be gained by the working class in this spring election and as the only true party of Socialism, the Socialist Labor Party through circumstances beyond its control, will not appear on the official ballot, we request the workers to assist us in the work of educating our fellow-workers, and not to participate in electing capitalist tickets.

The Committee Section St. Louis.

JAN POUREN RELEASED.

Revolutionary Russian Peasant Proven to Be a Political Refugee.

Jan Janoff Pouden, the Russian refugee who has been twice tried in extradition proceedings, was ordered discharged on March 30 by United States Commissioner Samuel Hitchcock, who heard the testimony in the second trial. The peasant revolutionist has been fighting for his freedom since December, 1907, when he fled to this country to escape the czar's soldiers. In October of last year Commissioner Shields found him guilty of the offenses charged by the Russian government and ordered his deportation. This decision was subsequently changed by order of Elihu Root, at that time head of the State Department. In the second trial which has been terminated by this discharge, Commissioner Hitchcock found that he had been guilty of the crimes charged by the government of Russia, but that he had acted as a revolutionist and not with criminal intent.

Just after the outbreak in the Russian peasant districts had been suppressed in 1907 Pouden followed the example of a number of other revolutionists and sought asylum in this country. He was detained at Ellis Island by an order from the Russian government asking for his extradition in accordance with the terms of the extradition treaty existing between the two countries.

This treaty, however, gave immunity to those who had committed political offenses.

Every one of the offenses alleged to have been committed by the peasant, Commissioner Hitchcock found, were committed prior to the official end of the revolution. The outbreak was finally put down in November, 1906, and the alleged crimes of Pouden had been committed before August of that year.

He furthermore brought out of the mass of testimony the fact that Pouden had not acted for personal gain, but to aid the revolutionary party.

"However revolting these acts may have been, we must still consider that they were committed while the country was in a revolutionary state, and were more or less justified," Commissioner Hitchcock found.

SCORES "LABOR" LAWS.

Dr. Devine Says Liability Law Sadly Inadequate.

Dr. Edward T. Devine, professor of economics at Columbia, in a lecture on "Out of Health," before the School of Philanthropy at the New York Charity Organization Society, on Tuesday, March 23, declared that, in his belief, the present employer's liability law was worse than no law at all. He explained what he called occupational diseases, and made a plea for preventive measures for those laws which a "conspiracy of silence" kept from general discussion, and which he said were responsible for most sterile marriages. The doctor well understands that the basis of the diseases from which society suffers is due to economic distress.

Touching upon this point he said: "Misery, springing from disease, which is essentially economic, will continue among us until workingmen will be able to have a reasonable amount of light and air in their homes, until they are able to restrict the household to its natural members, to withhold children from gainful occupations, until they have been prepared and have the necessary strength and maturity, until they are able to take a reasonable amount of recreation and to enjoy their holidays."

"Misery will continue among us until the workingman will be able to work without overwork and to consult a dentist and a physician, and, if necessary, a specialist, in time, and to have an income sufficient to provide for all these things as every workingman under American conditions should have and may have."

"The loss to the family of the wage-

WORKER'S ABILITY

DETROIT MANUFACTURING COMPANY ATTESTS TO FACT

That Men in Shops Possess Inventive Genius, and That Brains Are Not in Heads of Idle Owners—Mechanics Are Asked for Suggestions on Improving Company's Product—Will Get Small Reward.

Detroit, Mich., March 21.—The Briscoe Manufacturing Company of this city is knocking a hole into the "directing ability" theory of the Mallockians, and incidentally proving that the herry handed sons of toil have some good ideas as to how to successfully carry on production. The company has placed in the hands of each of its employees a circular asking them to hand over suggestions as to how to improve the quality of the company's output, and to cheapen its cost of production. It would seem that the company is well aware that the brains of its business is not confined to the craniums of the aristocratic owners.

As an inducement to the men to deliver up their valuable ideas gratis, small money prizes will be distributed at the end of each month, and the company will make more profits on its output. Furthermore, the men will later be made to feel the effects of their helping the company to reduce the "cost of production" and "improve working conditions." The "improvement" that the firm is after is not meant to benefit the men, but is meant to redound to the advantages of the employers. The bosses probably think that while their men have brains enough to hit upon inventions, they haven't intelligence to see how the new scheme will work against them.

The statement which the Briscoe company has issued follows:—

To the Employees of the Briscoe Mfg. Co.

In order to enable the officers of the Company to get into closer touch with the factory employees, we are going to try the plan of putting up boxes in which may be placed written suggestions from employees. These suggestions will be considered by the directors of the company and at the end of every month three prizes will be given—a first prize of \$15.00, a second prize of \$10.00 and a third prize of \$5.00 for the three best suggestions that have been made during the month. These suggestions should be such as will tend to do any of the following things:

- 1—Improve the quality of our product.
- 2—Improve our service to our customers.
- 3—Cheapen the cost of producing our goods.
- 4—Improve working conditions in the factory.

These prizes are not open to officers, office employees, or superintendents, but are open to all other men employed anywhere in the Detroit plants.

In case more good suggestions are offered than there are prizes, the company reserves the right to use any or all of them.

It is hoped that employees will take an interest in this monthly contest and that it will be the means of bringing the men in closer touch with the company's officials and its product.

Yours truly,

Briscoe Manufacturing Company,
By Frank Briscoe, President.
Suggestion Box can be found in the clock room.

corner who is killed," continued Dr. Devine, "is of two kinds, personal and economic. These things are part of that misery which I attribute to maledjustment. A careful investigation has shown that wages do not cover the risks of industrial accidents, whatever the legal assumption to the contrary is. It is a serious question whether the employers' liability laws in New York and in Pennsylvania are not really worse than no law at all."

"During 1908 251 persons were killed by accidents in factories, quarries, and tunnel construction in the State of New York; at least 1,663 were permanently disabled, 1,541 others seriously, probably permanently, injured, and 10,474 temporarily disabled."

"Furthermore," added the lecturer,

(Continued on Page 6)

LOS ANGELES ISSUE

A Collection of Guilty Consciences De-
nounce Guilty Brother.

Los Angeles, Cal., March 17.—"The Recall," the latest political fad, has been pounded for and aft by all the daily screeches in Los Angeles. Three of capitalism's ulcers, the social evil, gambling, and private graft, grew so callous and nauseating that they had to be trimmed off and covered up a little by old dame capitalism herself. To lure "lamb" with some money here from the East, to have a fling at the underworld, to be "stung" with beelzebub ranches, and orangeless orange groves, has ever been the delight and graft of the daily papers. Every paper proves the editors of the other papers should be in jail. "Byones," "bozards," grafters, are some of the milder epithets the editors are throwing at each other. Each editor claims to speak for the dear "public." The public in each case consists of the unscrupulous schemer each editor sees in the mirror.

Mayor Harper, unable to satisfy all these vicious capitalists, by jailing Socialist men and women for exercising the right of free speech, by helping, on flimsy pretext to keep Magoon, Ricardo, and Villamil, the Mexican patriots, in jail here, by catering to owners of Tenderloin property, etc., finally trampled on some rival capitalist's corns by organizing some mining and oil companies.

Suddenly a great discovery was made. There was vice and gambling in Los Angeles. This discovery could only have been equalled if some workman had discovered the prosperity Taft had promoted before election. So two newspapers, the pious element, and Y. M. C. A. adherents, who employ young girls and women for \$3 to \$6 a week, proposed to recall the Mayor. The Mayor resigned, leaving the papers which upheld him to the furch, and giving the recallers a clear field, with the exception of the Socialist party, which is so muddled up and rent with internal strife that it can hardly hold together.

There is hardly a hotel, rooming house or cafe here which could pay its rent if it were not for vice. The rents in the business district would drop one-half if it were not for the evil. In fact, the social evil is one of the main sources of profit to capitalism here. The cause of vice, economic insecurity, low wages for men and starvation wages for women, along with the education to misrepresent and deceive about the value and quality of goods in stores, which young girls are forced to learn in stores, will continue, no matter if all the ministers who favor the recall were elected to office.

It is infamous gallery play on the part of these recall papers to about "prostitute," "gambler," etc., at dwellers of the Tenderloin. The "public press" is much more a prostitute than the harlot of the red light district. The journals with their display heads and "sensational" stories, only draw a workman's attention away from the real source of evil, the exploitation as wage slaves in "op, mine and factory. These graduates of "educational" factories lament about immorality, but they uphold the most immoral of institutions: that of wage slavery. It is just as immoral to hire men and women at starvation wages as it is to accept graft. The capitalist masters and their intellectual hirelings deprave everybody and everything they come in contact with, and then cry out against the evils their greed has produced.

This recall is but a case that fits every city and town under capitalism. It is a case of wine rending wine. The only difference between Tenderloin gamblers, recallers, and anti-recallers is the difference between fleas, vampires, and bedbugs: they are all parasites.

Workingmen of Los Angeles, and elsewhere, organize in industrial unions. Do not support craft unions, where one set of workmen are pitted against the other, but stand by integral class unions. Organize on the political field in the Socialist Labor Party, and support its press, which is the only press you can depend upon. The capitalist press is against you; it only pretends to be your friend that it may boost its circulation. The lesson of this recall is to show what jailbirds these capitalist "pillars" are, according to their own accusations. Stand by the Socialist Labor Party. More strength to its organs.

Press Committee,
Section Los Angeles, S. L. P.

READ THE DAILY PEOPLE.

Readers of the Weekly People in New York and vicinity can secure the Daily People by placing an order with their newsdealers. Out of town readers can get the Daily People by mail. A three-months' subscription costs one dollar. Militant Socialists should keep in daily touch with the movement by reading the Daily People.

CHIEF I-AM-A-BUM

Leta Eastern Associates Paddle Own
Canoe.

Spokane, March 20.—The "Spokane Industrial Worker," official organ of the Walsh-Heeswood combine, has made its appearance, and Walsh is about to realize his ambition to become Grand Chief and High Mogul of the Western Association of "I am a Bum" union and to have that "drunken-beer-soaked-Dutchman," as Heeswood used to call Trautmann, play second fiddle along with the Eastern gang. They are only a drag on the movement anyhow, according to the point of view of Walsh.

With a weekly newspaper, a lodging house, a five-cent moving picture show, a life insurance company with a \$100 a year benefit if the victim lives long enough to receive it, and an employment office and plenty of innocents to bite, money ought to be rolling in pretty fast, and it should not take so very long before Walsh should have \$4,000 or \$5,000 in the treasury. But Walsh had better be careful. Those workmen are not to be depended upon; they might quit paying dues all at once and let the union go to pieces. In that case Mr. Walsh will have a strenuous time "hobnobbing" through the country to find those men to pay them back their money, which they, in good faith, paid into the union.

Walsh was arrested for speaking on the street. He had been declaring that no I. W. W. man, when arrested and fined would pay the fine, put up bonds, or work on the rock pile. Walsh was fined \$10, and in line with his own teaching, goes to jail. But at once he became "disgraced with the prison bill of fare; he got sick," and—put up bonds on the second day!

Walsh then got the rank and file to go out and speak on the street, and about forty were arrested and sentenced to 30 days on the rock pile and fined \$100. As those men could not pay their fine, and, following instructions from Walsh, would not work on the rock pile, they were put on bread and water. At the same time, Walsh was living on the best that money could buy with the cash received from the union and paid into the union by those men in jail.

Later, Gatewood and the rest of the fakirs stay off the streets and sit in the union hall laying plans for others which they themselves could not follow.

James Wilson was arrested for striking a policeman, but was turned loose and discharged the next day without a trial.

After about forty were arrested, the Chief of Police gave notice to all citizens who did not have business in the particular parts of the city to keep off the streets as serious trouble might occur at any time and the police were prepared to meet any eventualities that might arise. Walsh then promised to keep the men off the street until the case can be decided by court, after which the men were turned loose.

Some of the A. F. of L. unions in the city were about ready to go to pieces last winter, and the members were going to join the I. W. W., but the disgraceful slum tactics of Walsh and his bunch has caused the honest rank and file in the A. F. of L. locals to turn away in disgust. Then the fakirs in the American Federation saw their opportunity to get the workers back under the yoke of the A. F. of L.

Thomas Malony, district organizer for the Federation has been very busy lately chasing all foreigners off the public works. These men go down to Walsh who will tell them how shamefully they have been treated. He then gets a dollar or two from each. Malony drives one set of workers to Walsh, and Walsh drives another set to Malony, and behind the scenes stand certain leaders in the S. P. and pull the strings.

Robert Clausen.

UNITY

An Address by DANIEL DE LEON

THE QUESTION OF SOCIAL-
IST UNITY IS TO THE FORE
AND THIS PAMPHLET
SHOULD BE READ BY ALL
WHO ARE INTERESTED IN
BRINGING IT ABOUT.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS CO.
25 City Hall Place, New York.

"The People" is the paper that you
want Straight and Truthful.

FAMILIES CUT
IN HALFSTRIKING REVELATIONS OF NEW
CENSUS DOCUMENT.

Reports of 1790 and 1900 Compared, to
Great Disadvantage of Latter—Due to
Economic Causes, Family Has Steadily
Diminished—Twenty Million More Peo-
ple if Old Rate Had Been Maintained.

Washington, March 28.—That, due to economic causes, the family of to-day in America is so badly broken up as an institution that the proportion of children to adults is only one-half what it was in 1790, and that there would now be 20,000,000 more people in the country if present families were as large as those of a century ago, are two of the striking revelations made by a new census volume soon to be issued, entitled "The Census of 1790."

The average size of families in 1790, says this document, was 5.3 persons. The variation shown by the states enumerated in 1790 ranged from 5.4 in Georgia to 6.4 in Maryland. In 1900 the average for the area enumerated in 1790 was 4.6, ranging from 4.1 in a number of states, to 5.1 in North Carolina.

Size of Family.	Per Cent. of Total.	
	1790.	1900.
Total	100.0	100.0
1 person	3.7	4.4
2 persons	7.8	15.9
3 persons	11.7	18.4
4 persons	13.8	17.4
5 persons	13.9	14.3
6 persons	13.2	10.7
7 persons	11.3	7.4
8 persons	9.0	4.8
9 persons	6.5	2.9
10 persons	4.2	1.7
11 persons and over	4.9	2.1

In 1790, families composed of no more than three persons represented but one-fourth of the entire number of families, while in 1900, families of similar size contributed nearly 40 per cent. of all families. On the other hand, families composed of six or more persons in 1790 represented nearly one-half of all families, at that census, but in 1900, scarcely more than one-fourth.

Had the number of persons who composed the total number of private families in 1900 been grouped according to the average size shown in 1790, there would have been 3,307,000 less households than were actually reported. On the other hand had the number of families in 1900 remained the same as reported, and had the average size of such families been as large as the average shown in 1790, the population would have been increased by nearly 20,000,000 persons.

The number of children under 16 years of age to each white family, as shown by this report, was 2.8 in 1790, as compared with 1.5 in 1900. In the course of the century under consideration the number of comparable households in the area included increased more than tenfold, but the number of white children under 16 in the same area increased little more than sixfold.

The ratio, in 1790, of nearly two children under 16 to each white family 16 years of age and over declined to one in 1900. At the census nearest to 1900, the similar ratio in Great Britain was 1.0; in France, 0.8; in the German Empire, 1.1; and in Italy, 1.1. Since the United States, although aided by large numbers of immigrants from all parts of the world, is now maintaining a ratio of children to females 16 years of age and over practically the same as that shown by three of the leading nations of Europe, it is clear that population conditions in the Republic are tending to become more in harmony with those obtaining in other civilized countries. The proportion shown for five of the New England states, and for New York is the same or nearly the same as the lowest European ratio—that of France.

On the basis of the proportion shown in 1900 there would have been, in 1790, 818,000 children as compared with more than 1,500,000 actually enumerated; on the other hand, on the basis of the proportion shown in 1790 there would have been 39,300,000 children in continental United States at the twelfth census. The number in reality was less than 24 millions. Hence, if the people of the Republic were as prolific at the present time as they were 100 years ago, there would have been over 15 million more children in the United States than were actually reported.

The First Convention Report, I. W. W., is instructive reading; 630 pages 30 cents. See ad. "Time Extended."

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SPEEDING UP IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY

II.—THE "STOCK" OR "PROFIT-SHARING" SWINDLE, THE BONUS, AND
THE WAGE CUT GOOD, ALL OF WHICH ARE EMPLOYED WITH
INHUMAN CALCULATION.

It should be clearly understood that the bonus plan is distinct from the Steel Corporation's scheme of issuing preferred stock to employees. Both plans were inaugurated at the same time in 1903, though a less inclusive bonus system had been in operation in the Carnegie Steel Company before the consolidation. In a degree, the purposes of both were identical in serving the administrative interests of the corporation, yet there is an essential difference in the two plans. The stock issue plan is for the purpose of creating greater stability in the labor force by making it an object to remain continuously in the employ of the corporation, and of increasing the spirit of loyalty. The bonus system is a plan for giving definite cash rewards to foremen and superintendents for their activity in getting out a high tonnage. It is an inducement to men in authority to drive those below them. The plan that was announced in 1903 provided for setting aside a fund from the earnings of the corporation. The amount of the fund was to be determined by a percentage of the annual earnings, varying from 1 per cent. if the annual earnings were \$80,000,000 to \$90,000,000, up to two and one-half per cent. if earnings should reach \$150,000,000. No announcement has since been made by the finance committee of a change in percentages, so it is natural to assume that in 1907, when the earnings of the corporation exceeded \$160,000,000, two and one-half per cent. were set aside for the bonus fund. This would amount to over \$4,000,000 for the year. When such a sum is divided among those "charged with responsibility in managing the affairs of the corporation," it is possible to give a substantial slice to each. It is reported in Pittsburgh that a foreman or the superintendent of a department receiving a salary of \$2,500 a year is likely to get about \$500 in bonuses, an amount large enough to be worth working for; and there can be no doubt of the efficiency of the system in leading those in authority to speed up the men below.

All these things have been factors in the marvelous growth in the daily production of steel. We have seen how the spirit of emulation has played its part in leading the men to do their utmost in producing a constantly larger tonnage. We have seen the effect of the record months, and how back of all this stand the men in authority egging their subordinates to ever renewed efforts, and doing all in their power to increase the tonnage, in the hope of receiving extra money rewards. It remains to point out the greatest factor of all in the "speeding up" system of payment in itself would never have been sufficient to call out the speed which now prevails. But when the rate is judiciously cut from time to time, the tonnage system of payment becomes the most effective scheme for inducing speed that has yet been devised.

That the rate of pay per ton of product should be reduced during the last fifteen years was inevitable. Had it remained the same during that time, the earnings of skilled men would be very high to-day. For example, the rate paid to rollers on the 119-inch plate-mill at Homestead in 1892 was said to be fourteen cents to an 84-inch mill and in 1907 the rate paid the rollers in this mill was five and one-half cents—a cut of over sixty per cent. in the rate. But the tonnage had increased and in spite of the cut, the roller was able to make \$9.90 a day. If he had been paid at the old rate he would have received over twenty-five dollars a day. This example illustrates one reason for the cutting of the tonnage rate. The statement is sometimes made that in certain skilled positions, workmen would receive over one hundred dollars a day if they were now being paid the same tonnage rate as obtained fifteen years ago. I think that such statements are likely to be the result of rather careless guessing. At any rate I do not know of any facts that would tend to substantiate such a theory. But while the tonnage rate has been cut to keep even with the rapid increase in the output, a careful inquiry soon reveals the fact that the reductions have often preceded the advances in output, and they have more than kept even with it.

It was stated above that the rollers on the 84-inch mill at Homestead received \$9.90 a day in 1907, but the rollers on the 119-inch mill received \$11.64 a day in 1892. This is a decline of sixteen per cent. since 1892 and in other positions the reduction has amounted to over twenty per cent. It is estimated by many who are in a position to know that actual earnings of skilled workmen in the steel mills have declined twenty to fifty per cent. since 1897. But it should be noted that this statement of reduction does not apply to all departments; in some positions wages have advanced in the last decade. The day men, that is

men who are paid by the hour or by the day instead of by the ton, have had their wages advanced in recent years, while the earnings of tonnage men were declining. This fact is significant. All workmen whose efforts have a direct appreciable bearing on the day's output, are paid by the ton. The day men are the unskilled laborers, engineers, and others who are able to affect the result so much by lagging or "soldiering." The skilled men occupy the strategic positions and wage cutting is a most effective thing in connection with the other devices, for increasing the output.

Whatever a man's earnings may be, whether high or low, he adjusts himself to that basis and it becomes his minimum of comfort. The man who has had six dollars a day and is reduced to four, has a harder time getting along on that than does another man on three dollars a day, who has never had a chance to develop four dollar tastes. A reduction in wages means sacrifice, and the desire to get back to the old basis after a reduction is stronger than is the desire to enjoy a higher wage than the accustomed average. The steel companies have been good judges of human nature in this respect. The mere possibility of greater earnings than any yet enjoyed would never have been sufficient to rouse the men to the degree of effort desired. Only a reduction could furnish the required stimulus, for that made it necessary to struggle to reach once more the old wage which had become the minimum of comfort. In the last fifteen years some of the steel workers have succeeded in holding their own but the majority of tonnage men have dropped backward.

I have in my possession wages data covering all employees, skilled and unskilled, in five departments of one of the largest of the Pittsburgh mills and, including over one-third of the employees in that plant. These data were secured from an authoritative source and they are accurate. They show that in 1907 there were five per cent of these employees who received over \$3 a day, twenty-three per cent. received \$2.50 to \$3, and seventy-two per cent. received less than \$2.50 a day. These figures refer to a plant where the wages paid are somewhat above the average, and they are also somewhat misleading because in the list referred to, yard men were not included; in other words, a higher percentage of skilled workmen was shown than the percentage of such better paid workmen in the industry as a whole. It is well known that in the steel industry over sixty per cent. of the workmen are

unskilled laborers receiving not over 16½ cents an hour. It would be somewhat nearer the truth to say that sixty per cent. of the employees receive less than \$2 a day of twelve hours, three or four per cent. receive over \$5 and the remaining thirty-six or thirty-seven per cent. receive somewhere between \$2 and \$3 a day.

Wage cutting, then, the twelve-hour day, the seven-day week, abnormal heat conditions, relentless speeding—these are the features in the industrial situation in the steel districts that stand out with greatest prominence, now, at the period of greatest development in the history of the industry.—John Fitch Andrews, in *Charities and the Commons*, for March 6.

ENGLISH SHIPBUILDERS

Their Traitorous Union Leaders Have
Them Tied up Tight for Bosses.

London, March 26.—The following extracts from an article published in the *London Times* relative to an agreement between employees and laborers concerned in British shipbuilding show how completely the traitorous craft union leaders here have tied the men up to the bosses' chariot wheels:

"A provisional agreement has been entered into between the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation and 26 trades unions for the prevention of strikes by the settlement of disputes in conferences in which all employers and all the trades unions shall be represented. This agreement is the most advanced step in the interests of industrial peace and economic industry in the history of labor. The federation and the unions recognize that it is in the interests of both sides that arrangements should be made whereby disputes may be fully discussed and settled without stoppages of work. No strike or lockout shall be declared until every means of conciliation shall have been exhausted in joint conferences.

"When the joint conference, which embodies the authority of the Employers' Federation on one side and the whole of the 26 unions on the other, decides a question it is not likely that either side will disregard the verdict.

"On the men's side the whole interest of the 26 unions will be opposed to a strike which would throw them all into idleness, while any employer who determines to reject the decision of this conference would find himself at war with the power of all the 26 unions in concert.

"Neither side is to ask for a change in the scale of wages at shorter periods than six months. Even before a demand may be made for a change in wages there must be a conference on the subject between the employers and the unions.

"The agreement is to continue in force for three years, and shall thereafter be subject to six months' notice on either side."

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STRIKES IN JAPAN

WORKMEN THERE NO SLOUCHES IN DEMANDING BETTER PAY.

Thirty Strikers of Great Prominence in One Year, Many of Which Were Won, in Spite of Government and Police Interference—Japan's Capitalists Planning to Crowd U. S. Out of Eastern Markets.

Tokyo, Japan, March 26.—The causes of the American fury against the Japanese will be better understood when it is known that Japan is aiming to, and will, eventually, be able to supply its home requirements for manufactured goods, and compete with foreign countries in the markets of China and the Far East generally. Explosives, cigars and cigarettes, sugar and petroleum refining are among the newer industries.

Labor is organized to a certain extent, practically every trade or occupation having its organization. There is not the "union" idea, so prevalent in the United States, and the organizations are purely local as yet, nor is there any immediate likelihood of the forming of stronger labor unions capable of supporting its members during a strike and acting as any curb on the exactions of employers. These organizations are called "guilds," but have no connection with the recognized "productive guilds," of which there are some 4,300 throughout the Empire.

There are no statistics available and no way of estimating the membership in the trade organizations throughout Japan, but it is obvious that as the number of persons employed in a trade increases the membership in the organization representing that trade increases. The industrial growth of Japan has led to the concentration of large numbers of the working class in industrial and commercial centers, and the consequent exchange of ideas and grievances, bringing also the power of organized effort and the knowledge of such power.

Strikes were particularly noticeable in the year 1907, some of the more important being noted as follows. In January the workers in the sugar refinery at Osaka struck for higher wages. In February cotton spinning operatives struck in Tokyo, demanding a 30 per cent. increase in wages. Some thousand operatives in the Mito spinning mill struck. Miners at the Kuroda colliery, Hokkaido, struck. Operatives of the Mito Bishi Drydock and Engine Works, Nagasaki, struck for increase and because a ferry service was discontinued. Operatives of the Fuji Spinning Company, Shizuoka prefecture, struck.

A great strike occurred at the Ashio copper mines, near Nikko. In March the workers at the Bingsu colliery, workers at the Hoshinobashi, Hokkaido, and about a thousand men at the gold workings in Nigata struck. In April the crews on six steamers in the coastwise trade struck for higher wages, and service was suspended for some time pending an "amicable settlement." In June all the mine workers at the Beishi copper mines struck. Workmen at the Uraga dock, near Yokohama, struck. Workers at the Obiya copper mine struck.

In July workers at the Ikono silver mines demanded a 40 per cent. increase in wages and reduction in price of rice supplied them, and won their demands. Operatives of the Kagegawa woolen factory, workers at the Otsuka Coke Works, workers of the Yoshioka copper mines, in Okayama Province, and miners at the Tsubaki colliery, Hokkaido, struck or 50 per cent. increase; makers of sake sake made a demand for an increase; in most cases the demands were won, at least in part.

In August the male operatives of the works of the Hokkaido Hemp Company struck from dissatisfaction as to wages; in September the Osaka Printing Company operatives in Osaka went on strike, and the houses had to suspend operations for some time, the strikers demanding a 50 per cent. increase. Men engaged in the use and cap trade quit work, demanding an increase.

There are instances of many other strikes, such as that of the stone masons at Yokohama, who were successful; of the Hokkaido copper workers; of the workers of the Oya quarry near Kobe; of the carpenters employed in shipbuilding yards in and near Yokohama and Tokyo; of the harbor coolies of Yokohama.

In foregoing were strikes which came to the public notice; the majority of the labor troubles, partly because of their short duration, and often their distance from the press, are hardly heard of away from the places and parties chiefly concerned. The strike at the Ashio copper mines was called to enforce a demand for an increase of 80 per cent, which the company would not consider, though afterwards allowing an increase of 20 per cent.

It is significant that many of the strikes have been successful, and it is other remarkable that with such ex-

amples there have not been more demands.

The Government, as in any capitalist country, employs its police force to quell strikes, and act as "arbitrators," "advisors" and "peacekeepers." In cases of strikes beyond the power of the police to break, troops are called out. Government interference, save by the police, is seldom perpetrated, however.

THE SACK OF FLOUR.

Gully, Judge, and I own the crime— I slipped away with a sack of flour; They nabbed me just in the nick of time— I'd had it home in half an hour. Only the constable on the hill, Knew that I must have jumped the bill; Knew as well as he could that I Hadn't the money with which to buy. "Larceny," that's the proper word; There's never a crime but law can name. Only, I wonder if Law has heard.

That any one but the thief's to blame? Say, did the constable on the hill, Tell you about the closed up mill? Tell you of men who must beg or steal To give their babies and wives a meal— Yes, I have begged—and I'll tell you how: I walked the roads and the fields and lanes.

And asked for work with the pleading brow And came back empty for all my pains! Say, did the constable on the hill Tell you the wheels of trade were still? Tell you, when work was dull and dead The wife and the child must go unfed? Gully, Judge—let the law be paid; But if you had children four or five, As pretty as God had ever made, And lacked the food to keep them alive,

Lacked the method but not the will, Their cries of hunger to stop and still— And then saw oceans of food in view— For God's sake tell me, what would you do? Say, if you had a wife whose heart Had fed your own for a score of years And never a moment walked apart From all your griefs and hopes and fears, And now in that faithful bosom had grown

A little life that was part your own, And hunger harrowed them through and through, For God's sake tell me, what would you do?

Dollars by thousands stacked away— Harrets rotting in barn and shed— Silks and ribbons in fine display— And children crying for lack of bread! Wealth and famine are hand in hand, Making the tour of a heart-sick land; Half of the country's future weal Crushed by the present's selfish heel! Gully, Judge—and I own the crime; Put me in prison without delay— Only—please work me double time And send my family half the pay! And tell my children if they ask, That I was working my gloomy task, Not for pleasure or money gem— But for the love I have for them. —Will Carleton.

WORKERS AS PAWNS.

Given the Hint to Demand Legislation in the Interest of Steel Trust.

If one read closely the financial columns of the capitalist dailies, he will occasionally find reports leak through which expose the myth regularly taught in the political and civic studies in the school rooms of the land. That myth is that this great country is run by the people and for the people. A cast up of the "financial features" in the "Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin," of February 26, 1909, contains this interesting summary:

Wall Street's traders detect in all this rumormongering a villainous plot to thwart tariff reform. They claim that the financiers who manage the Steel Trust are contriving to bring about the gravest demoralization possible in order to produce alarm in business and labor circles throughout the country, the ulterior object being to arouse sentiment against any proposal that would interfere with existing tariff schedules. Furthermore, it is argued that by precipitating acute depression this month miners and other classes of labor will be brought back to their senses when new agreements fail to be made in April. If steel prices continue to tumble, if copper goes on sinking to unprofitable levels, if securities shrink seriously in value, and if general trade relapses into a paralytic state, employers will have good grounds for insisting upon a reduction in wages, especially if protection is to be modified or eliminated. If business and labor combined to influence Congress the result, it is represented by those who talk in this strain, could scarcely fail to preserve existing schedules from wholesale cutting. "It is all a great Wall Street game," is the caustic comment frequently heard.

The People is a good broom to brush the cobwebs from the minds of the workers. Buy a copy and pass it around.

THE CHANGE IN THE FRENCH GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR

[Translated from the Berlin "Vorwaerts" by J. Scheuerer.]

Paris, March 12.—The victory of "neutralist" Niel at the election for Secretary of the General Confederation of Labor is occupying the attention of the whole press. It is doing so rather more than the event in itself justifies. The election result, which gave a relative majority of only one vote, was not unaffected by alterations of a personal and administrative nature. But the far more important fact, that even at the Marseilles Congress the majority did not represent more than one-third of the organized workers, mostly belonging to backward organizations, plays no role for the superficial observer who has not learned to seek, behind the participating persons, the acting social forces.

To these superficial judges belong first of all the Syndicalists themselves and their apparent antipodes, the leaders of the parliamentary democracy. The papers of bloc-radicalism, subdued by the misery of the decay of their own party, see in the smothering of the "anarcho-socialist" straw fire the silver lining of hope, and try to convince themselves that the "class harmonizing" ministerialism is destined to perform glorious wonders. The defeated Syndicalists take recourse to vapidous scolding and raving against the new Secretary and those who have contributed towards his election. The daily "Revolution" cannot come to rest. With the banal demagoguery that seeks the causes of all defeats in the "treachery" of individuals, it accuses Niel of having been the candidate of the government, and does not shrink from malevolent insults against the largest labor organizations. And this is done by people who always hid their anarchistic tendencies behind the hypocritical slogan: "The Confederation shall not represent opinions, but the interests of the whole working class." What else was defeated at the election but the opinion of the minority of the Confederation concerning the most suitable policy?

Not without humor is the Jeremiah tone intermingled with these scoldings, and ending in the lamentation: "After such an election there remains no more hope for an action of the proletariat"—a fatal similarity to the lamentations of some royalist papers which make their cross over the French nation because it does not allow itself to be instigated to a "deed" by the royalist shouters.

The threats of the defeated "Anarcho-Socialists" are to be taken more seriously. They hint that the new Secretary will be put to the necessity of carrying out the decisions of the Congress concerning anti-patriotism, etc., against which he fought at the Congress. Here is apparent the intention of a challenge which would undeniably lead to controversies which would put the unity of the Confederation in jeopardy.

While the review of the election proved the want of intelligence on the part of the syndicalist politicians, this intention proves their want of scruples. It was just they who hitherto simply regarded the Confederation as a clearing house for the exchange of views, a "letter box," and the Congress decisions as an expression of the views predominating in the Confederation and not as a program of action binding all organizations.

The rage of the conquered, it is true, can be easily comprehended. It flows from the consciousness of weakness, the extent of which is not quite revealed by last week's defeat.

Not new principles have been victorious with Niel's election but a new policy. Theoretically Niel stands much closer to the syndicalists than to the trade unionists of other countries. Also, he believes, and only recently stated, that the "trade union is all sufficient," and able through its struggle against the employers, if necessary through a general strike, to abolish the wage system. The conquering of political power is also for him a thing which does not concern the organized working class, but he rather regards this as the fight against war, as the domain of specific organizations of parties which the speaker treats with some haughtiness. But in spite of this it was a practical necessity for the trade unions, permeated with the conception of Socialist action, to vote for Niel. He advocates the tactical thesis that the "revolt" is not identical with force—which reaches Lassalle's words of the "revolution in the pitchfork sense." He is for excluding politics from the trade unions, so that they may utilize their full power of assimilation. The Socialists desire the same. Only they endeavor, of course, to acquire leading influence in the trade unions, because only the five Socialist spirit can keep them on the path of the class struggle and save them from de-

generating into guilds. The favorite slogan of the syndicalists of the intelligent, energetic minorities may find here its application—with the goal of submerging oneself in the permeation of the whole proletariat, or at least of its great majority, with Socialist consciousness.

More than the disinclination of the working class to renewing the "revolutionary gymnastics"—which might be simply a passing sentiment—it must be depressing to the syndicalists to realize that the attempt to guide the whole Socialist movement to their mill has proven futile. For the last few years they have labored of a field favorable for them, a decaying democracy, which presented to the proletariat the drama of embittering treachery of "socialist" politicians. A galaxy of intellectuals gave them able theoreticians and efficient journalists. But in spite of this and in spite of the noisy and exaggerated successes heralded by the bourgeois press, they have simply remained on the surface and have been unable to wipe from the consciousness of the working class the necessity of the struggle for political power. A wave of new Proudhonist and new Blanquist sentiments has passed over the proletariat. A few were torn from their moorings, many allowed themselves, half in confidence, half out of weakness, to be carried away with it—but it is nearing the end of its course. It is not without irony that the turning point becomes apparent at a time when fate put into the hands of the syndicalists the means to present to the public a daily organ as a sign of their growing influence.

The organs of the capitalist bourgeoisie see that the election of Niel offers them no guaranty or hope for the utopia of "social peace" in politics and economic affairs. They see sharper than the cockroach bourgeois shouters and success hunters. The "Figaro," "Temps" and the "Journal des Debats" arrive at very pessimistic conclusions which may be summed up thus: That "For the well-to-do it is not better, nay it is far more dangerous to be roasted slowly than be seared fast." This view may be in line with a policy which desires to combine all conservative elements for the struggle against the proletariat and to put an end to the democratic bloc regime.

Does not the blind thirst for revenge on the part of the syndicalists come to the assistance of the capitalists? Then a trade union movement, gathering and holding together an ever greater mass of the proletariat, will become able to force from the bourgeoisie concessions more lasting and greater than the sporadic assaults of the last few years. The present crisis affects strongly the most important syndicalist organization, the building trades workers, and it brings home to them how insecure is the power of a trade union which is the fast rising creation of that "clan" which is held in so much reverence by the metaphysicians of syndicalism.

But as to the fact that the trade unions will recognize the limits of their powers, confine themselves to the amelioration of the condition of the working class within capitalist society and thus give up the illogical notion of combining neutrality with thoughts of social revolution—in this respect the development of the class struggles will do its work. A short time ago when the wave of syndicalist agitation rolled high, one could read in the "Figaro" the opinions of the employers, who expressed themselves to the effect that "the real danger does not lie in syndicalism, in spite of its tumultuous appearance on the scene, but in Socialism which with less adventurous tactics is attacking the principles of the existing order of society." Are Niel's tactics better than those of the "revolutionary gymnastickers"? Then the working class will yet have to realize how inadequate are his principles which hold that the question of whether the state shall be anarchistically destroyed or Socialistically conquered is of secondary importance for the organized working class in its struggles for the abolition of the wage system. In France this opinion still finds many adherents, and even the Socialist party itself has made many concessions to it. It is surely a noteworthy event that "Humanite," the daily organ of the party, is about the only French paper which has not expressed an opinion concerning the election of the Confederation.

Considering the advantages which were expected to be derived from a public trade union forum, open to all tendencies in the movement, it is rather surprising that in trade union affairs everybody can utter his views in "Humanite"—except the editor. But even this extreme reticence did not save "Humanite" from the malice of the syndicalists, because in "La Revolution"—which, by the way, is also suffering

from the peevishness of the unsuccessful competitor—Mereheim is attacking it severely for "quietly favoring" Niel. Its silence cannot even be fully explained by its strict neutrality in trade union questions. From Niel's standpoint of neutrality it may appear immaterial whether the working class is thinking anarchistically or Socialistically. But it is apparent that the Socialist party—which surely cannot regard itself as superfluous—cannot remain unconcerned about the leading features of trade union action.

But presumably the same circumstances which will clarify the trade unions will also bring clearness and firmness to the Socialist party. French Socialism has now an important helper—the bourgeois radicalism, the bankruptcy of which will show the proletariat the truth of the class struggle, but also the undoubted necessity of the struggle to conquer political power.

PUZZLE: NAME THE ANIMAL.

"Nothing, Just Nothing" Is What It Does—Sheds Skins Often—Diet Not Given.

Not long ago a young man in the idle rich class, an intellectually poverty-stricken chap with an income from his father's estate of more than \$90,000 per year, spoke to me about going to Spain; but he admitted that he hadn't the faintest idea where it was or how he could get there. He knew it was "on the other side!" He had been to Europe several times, but never got beyond the allurements of Paris. Examination of a map didn't appear to assist his meager and undeveloped intelligence. He said he hadn't seen a map since he was at somebody's private school. He couldn't find Paris on the map! He explained that in the only geography he had seen Paris was in the center of a country colored green.

This sounds incredible for a man of thirty-five, raised in luxury, until one understands that he was brought up in utter idleness.

He has five automobiles, but he doesn't understand the simplest principle of their construction; he couldn't tell which are electrical and which are gasoline motors! About books he knows nothing, said he hadn't read a novel or a book of travel in his life!

"For God's sake, Johnnie, what do you do?" I asked in desperation. "Nothing, just nothing," was his reply. And he told the absolute truth. He is not a dissipated youngster; doesn't drink liquors because he doesn't like their taste. Doesn't smoke cigars, because they make him sick; likes cigarettes, but will not use them because they discolor his carefully manicured fingers. He is fond of the fair sex, and spends \$10,000 a year on flowers.

His tailor has a standing order for three suits of clothes a month; but he waives the pleasure of selecting the goods or of trying on the finished garments. So far as I see, his valet gets most of the garments after they have been worn half a dozen times. He has to change his dress thrice every day—a morning suit for the forenoon, when he arises before 12; a Prince Albert for the afternoon, and evening dress at night. Therein centers his most acute activity.

Honestly, life is a great bore to this wretched young man, with almost \$100,000 a year to throw away.—Julius Chambers in the Brooklyn Eagle.

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PLATFORM

Adopted at the National Convention of the Socialist Labor Party, July, 1904, and Re-adopted at the National Convention, July, 1908.

The Socialist Labor Party of America, in convention assembled, reasserts the inalienable right of man to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We hold that the purpose of government is to secure to every citizen the enjoyment of this right; but taught by experience we hold furthermore that such right is illusory to the majority of the people, to wit, the working class, under the present system of economic inequality that is essentially destructive of THEIR life, THEIR liberty and THEIR happiness.

We hold that the true theory of politics is that the machinery of government must be controlled by the whole people; but again taught by experience we hold furthermore that the true theory of economics is that the means of production must likewise be owned, operated and controlled by the people in common. Man cannot exercise his right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness without the ownership of the land and the tool with which to work. Deprived of these, his life, his liberty and his fate fall into the hands of the class that owns those essentials for work and production.

We hold that the existing contradiction between the theory of democratic government and the fact of a despotic economic system—the private ownership of the natural and social opportunities—divides the people into two classes: the Capitalist Class and the Working Class; throws society into the convulsions of the Class Struggle; and perverts government to the exclusive benefit of the Capitalist Class.

Thus labor is robbed of the wealth which it alone produces, is denied the means of self-employment, and, by compulsory idleness in wage slavery, is even deprived of the necessities of life.

Against such a system the Socialist Labor Party raises the banner of revolt, and demands the unconditional surrender of the Capitalist Class.

The time is fast coming when in the natural course of social evolution, this system, through the destructive action of its failures and crises, on the one hand, and the constructive tendencies of its trusts and other capitalist combinations, on the other hand, will have worked out its own downfall.

We, therefore, call upon the wage workers of America to organize under the banner of the Socialist Labor Party into a class conscious body, aware of its rights and determined to conquer them.

And we also call upon all other intelligent citizens to place themselves squarely upon the ground of Working Class interests, and join us in this mighty and noble work of human emancipation, so that we may put summary end to the existing barbarous class conflict by placing the land and all the means of production, transportation and distribution into the hands of the people as a collective body, and substituting the Co-operative Commonwealth for the present state of planless production, industrial war and social disorder—a commonwealth in which every worker shall have the free exercise and full benefit of his faculties, multiplied by all the modern factors of civilization.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1909.

To a new truth nothing is more hav-
ful than an old error. —GÖTTE.

LUXURIES

Champ Clark, the minority leader in
the House of Representatives, is engaged
in the bootless task of bringing home to
the majority leader, Sen. E. Payne,
that the proposed tariff bill cuts into the
necessaries of the people. Payne intro-
duced his bill with words to the effect
that the rates were raised only on
luxuries. Clark asks, is he, the cost
of which is to be increased 30 per cen-
tum, a "luxury"? Clark might have ad-
ded, Are peas and split peas, the rates
of which are to be raised from 40 cents
to 45 cents per bushel—are peas a "lux-
ury"? And apples, which were largely
on the free list and contribute to render
toothsome the otherwise frequently
tasteless food of the workers, and which
are now to be assessed an average duty
of 30 per centum ad valorem, are they
luxury? And he might have gone on at
this rate until interrupted by Payne,
frequently a blunt-plain man, with this
must-plain answer:

"Have you with your sentimental
twaddle. Yourself you place no value
upon the principle that your objections
imply. According to you, whatever the
working class has become accustomed to
use is thereby taken from the category
of 'luxury' and becomes a 'necessary.'
Stuff and nonsense! Political economy,
as understood by us and practiced by
both the majority and the minority ele-
ment in Congress, maintains the oppo-
site principle. Whatever our profits re-
quire that the working class be stripped
of thereby forthwith ceases to belong to
the category of 'necessaries' and is
raised to the category of 'luxuries.' A
highly scientific principle this is. It is
grounded on biology and on evolution.
Do we capitalists need a portion of the
steaks the worker was accustomed to?
Our need forthwith places the value of
that portion among 'luxuries,' and we
take it. Do we capitalists need a portion
of the bread, the salt, the peas (split and
otherwise) and the apples consumed by
the workers? Our need is conclusive proof
that those things have become 'luxuries,'
—say, are really 'luxuries'—and we ab-
sorb them. It is a theory of many-sided
luxury. Upon it is planted our off-re-
peated claim that Labor really lives
luxuriously and on luxuries only. How
else could Labor shed off, as it were,
so tentatively, so unremittently such a
vast amount of luxury?"

And Champ will wink at Sen. and
Sen. back at Champ—and the mock
battle in favor of Labor's "necessaries"
will subside to the tune of "luxuries."

TUMULT IN HOLLAND

A split has taken place in the Social
Democratic Labor party of Holland. The
Marxist element separated from the par-
ty body, and is now gathering head to
set up an independent political organi-
zation.

The facts—are they to be deplored?
are they not to be deplored? It is yet
too early to determine—sifted from
"Het Volk," the organ of the parent
organization, are these:

There is a Socialist paper in
Amsterdam called the "Tribune,"
and which is edited by ac-
knowledgeed Marxists. The editors of
the "Tribune" criticized the administra-
tion of the party, especially the attitude
of its delegation in parliament, and, of
these, Troeltsch in particular, to an ex-
tent that caused the latter to take of-
fense. Sides were taken. Of the two
extreme wings, one the Troeltsch wing,
possessed the "Tribune" absolutely;
the other, the "Tribune" wing, con-
demned the Troeltsches as absolutely
"revisionistic." Between these two ex-
tremes the bulk of the membership,
among whom there were many Marxists,
shaded into a variety of shades and
sought to establish harmony. Confer-
ences to this end were held. The confer-

ences only aggravated the situation. It
was then decided to hold an extra party
convention. The same took place at
Deventer. There a proposition was in-
troduced to attach to, and issue as a
supplement of, the Daily "Het Volk" a
weekly Marxist paper. The "Tribune"
element did not fancy this proposition.
They considered it an admission that
"Het Volk" was not Marxist, and, con-
sequently, that to place a Marxist pub-
lication virtually under the wings of
"Het Volk" would result in scuttling the
Marxist purpose. The proposition pre-
vailed, only a few votes being cast
against it.

Evidently encouraged by the great
strength that they developed, the Troel-
sches thereupon adopted successively
two resolutions purporting to interpret
the proposition that was carried. The
first resolution was to the effect that the
"Tribune" was ordered to discontinue;
the second that the editors of the "Tri-
bune" stood expelled from the party.
The interpretations put upon the origi-
nal action of the convention so angered
many of the Marxists that they forth-
with proceeded to secede from the party
and to move for the establishment of a
party of their own, the "Tribune" being,
of course, continued.

All judgment of the wisdom or lack
of wisdom that is animating the Troel-
sches on the one side, and the "Tri-
bunists" on the other is, at this dis-
tance, and at this stage of the game,
risky. Suffice it here to quote from "Het
Volk," the organ of the parent organiza-
tion, a letter by Mrs. Van Holst-Roland,
herself a Marxist, and one of the Marx-
ists who did not secede, expressing the
sentiment that the conduct of the party
is so harsh towards the insurgents that
it tends to make difficult the posture
within the party of the Marxists who
have remained loyal to it.

Mrs. Van Holst-Roland's estimate is
disputed by "Het Volk." Her words,
coupled with their criticism by "Het
Volk," sound ominous. They seem to
justify the conclusion that the Socialist
Movement of Holland is facing a crisis,
involving nothing less than a decision
regarding the practical path to be
followed in order to blend practical
with theoretical soundness.

METZ AND TILLMAN

'Twas only the other day when the
Socialist was regularly met with the
objection that, whatever poverty, what-
ever suffering existed, was due to ig-
norance, and that none had anyone to
blame for being ignorant but himself.
With a Pecksniffian waltz of the hand
towards the public institutions of learn-
ing—from the grammar school grade up
to High Schools and Colleges—the So-
cialist used to be told: "Behold every
man's opportunity! Is a man poor tis
his own fault; he was too indolent to
avail himself of the facilities to acquire
a wealth-insuring education. Was he
active, industrious and virile enough to
acquire such education, then he is
wealthy. Wealth is the fruit of educa-
tion—all educated people are wealthy,
all wealthy people are educated."

So did the theory run at one time.
It has now been abandoned. Addressing
the annual meeting of East Tremont
Taxpayers' Association, Comptroller
Metz expressed himself against high
schools. He said: "We are raising a gen-
eration of ladies and gentlemen who
don't want to work."

What is it that is "biting" the Metz?
It is the identical problem that Southern
capitalists are facing.

A time was when the language held
in the South with regard to the Negro
was: "He is ignorant. Let him educate
himself, and then we shall not object to
him." The Negro took these people at
their word. He sailed in and educated
himself. How well he did it appears
from Senator Tillman's declaration that
the barrier of "illiteracy" will no longer
protect the whites in the South. The cat
leaped out of the bag. The Rev. Quincy
Ewing, himself a Southerner, really sums
up the situation in the Atlantic Monthly
when he says: "the race problem is the
problem how to keep the Negro in focus
with the traditional standpoint." All
the former talk regarding the Negro's
ignorance and other "riots" was but pre-
textes. The "traditional standpoint"
was that the Negro's mission on earth
is to toil without enjoying for his mas-
ters to enjoy without toil. It was
thought the point could be concealed by
speaking of his ignorance. He having
removed his ignorance the truth comes
out.

In the South the thing is called "race
problem." Comptroller Metz, whose lan-
guage means exactly what Tillman
means, reveals the fact that the problem,
North and South, is the Labor Problem;
and that that problem is summed up in
how to keep Labor in focus with the
traditional standpoint.

Seeing that ever more members of the
middle class drop into the ranks of the
proletariat, the Metz and Tillmans are
seen to be actually engaged in the im-
possible task of how to keep the bulk,
an ever increasing bulk, of society in
focus with the traditional standpoint of
toiling without enjoyment, for others to
enjoy without toil.

THE ACME OF SHAMELESSNESS

Every well read person knows of the
posture of the Southern slaveholders in
and out of Congress who demanded slav-
ery "in the name of the Negro and for
the Negro's good." That was shameless.
Every person, even if not "well read,"
but who lives with eyes and ears ap-
proximately open has seen and heard
protectionist capitalist utterances to the
effect that what they strain after is pro-
tection to their employees from the "pau-
per labor" of backward races. That, in
a way, is still more shameless, consid-
ering that the more highly protected the
industry the lower is the living of the
wage earners engaged in them.

Every person, "well read" or not, but
who walks across life-awake and not in a
trance, has had occasion to arch his eye-
brows at the pretence of free trade capi-
talists that the sleepless nights they
spend in scheming how to tear down the
tariff are spent in the interest of the
overburdened poor, whose burden the
philanthropic free trader would lighten.
Unquestionably this posture strikes a
still higher pitch of shamelessness: no
sooner prices go down than down go
wages.

Nevertheless, the acme of shameless-
ness is not reached by any of these
worthies. It was left for the women,
who are said to be back of a certain
manifesto now issued against a tariff bill
schedule in the proposed tariff bill, to
reach the peak of Mt. Shamelessness.

The proposed tariff bill raises the duty
considerably on the choice kid, lamb and
Schmashen gloves for women imported
from Europe, especially upon those over
14 inches in length. That by no process
this tax can fall upon the proletariat is
obvious. Proletarian women do not in-
dulse in kid and other choice leather
gloves 14 inches in length—at least not
to any alarming extent—and not then
usually until they meet in the slums the
slum element of the plutocracy. This
notwithstanding, rushing by the slave-
holders who wept in favor of slavery in
behalf of their slaves; taking a spurt be-
hind the protectionists who "voice the
needs and wishes" of their starvation-
waged employees; and outstripping the
free traders whose heart throbs only to
the tune of "lighter burdens" for the
wage slaves, whose shoulders they are
ever engaged in rendering weaker—put-
ting all these worthies, the issuers of the
Manifesto against the proposed
schedule that raises the duty on women's
kid and other gloves, especially those
over 14 inches in length, appeal to the
women of "the poorer classes" to "make
themselves felt" by writing to their
Congressmen in protest against a sched-
ule that "taxes most highly the poorer
classes!"

Does the broad-based mountain range
of capitalist shamelessness boast of any
peak more shamelessly insulting than
this?

Four Thousand Furnacemen's Wages Cut

Bethlehem, Pa., March 24.—The com-
panies operating the iron furnaces in the
Lehigh Valley have decided to reduce
wages of furnacemen 10 per cent. This
reduction will apply to 4,000 workers.
The date of the reduction will probably
vary with the different companies. The
Thomas Iron Company decided to lead
off with the announcement, which will be
made formally in a few days, that the
10 per cent cut will date from April 1.
The Thomas Co. owns the furnaces at
Hokendauqua, Alhertis, Hellertown, and
Glendon. The Empire Steel and Iron
Company will very likely also announce
its reduction for the same day. The Em-
pire owns the Crane Iron Works at Ca-
tasetta, the furnaces at Macungie and
Topton, and the Henry Clay furnaces at
Reading. Both the Thomas and the Em-
pire companies have large mining opera-
tions in New Jersey.

The proposed reduction will put wages
back to the low level of 1905.

General Cut for Steel Men

A general reduction in wages in the
steel industry is expected to follow
another cut in steel products just
made.

The fight between the United States
Steel Corporation and the independent
interests is said to be "acute."

The officers of the Steel Corpora-
tion in this city refuse to make any
statement as to the intentions of the
company on wages or prices.

School Teachers' Organization

Boston, March 26.—An effort to or-
ganize the teachers in the United
States and Canada, numbering nearly
half a million, will be made under the
auspices of the North American Teach-
ers' League, according to an announce-
ment made here yesterday by Fred-
erick A. Tupper, Head Master of the
Brighton School.

The league has the patronage of
leading educators in this country and
Canada, and an energetic campaign is
planned in order to establish branches
in every part of the country. The ob-
ject is to extend the scope of the
league, obtain higher salaries, pensions
for teachers, and National and State
aid to education.

CRISES

Occasionally a critic answers the doubly
useful purpose of not only affording by
his error the means by which to illus-
trate sound economics, but also of afford-
ing the means by which to correct and
illustrate false methods of reasoning—
an important process in the Socialist
Movement, where the use of accurate
terms is essential to the digestion of
facts.

Of this nature is the following criti-
cism:—

To the Editor of the Daily People.

Dear Sir:—
About four months ago there was a Let-
ter Box reply in the Daily People to the
effect that the capitalist class has in its
power to bring about a crisis. Superficially
considered it is correct. But that is the
same as to say that they can cut off their
own fingers if they so choose. I admit that
they can stop production for a short time,
but if they do it for a lengthy time they
cease to be capitalists—they will be im-
powerless. For they have no cash. They
have all without exception debts upon their
properties. There is no difference whether
one owes a small amount on a small store
and cannot pay it or a farmer owes mil-
lions on his railroads and cannot cover
them. Please explain this to me in the
Letter Box. Also what will they do with
their railroads and steamships? Will they
drop them or continue operating them with-
out any income?

New York, March.

H. HALPERN.

Our critic denies what The People has
not said, and he admits what The People
did actually say. His error in reasoning
lies in the loose conception he has of the
word "crisis," hence the false reasoning
he thereby slips into.

A cat belongs to the same family as the
lion. Not, therefore, is a cat a lion, or
a lion a cat. A "crisis" belongs to the
same general politico-economic family
as an indefinite and long-protracted stop-
page of production. Not, therefore, is
the thing known in political economy as a
crisis the same as a stoppage of pro-
duction for a lengthy time, or such
lengthy stoppage of production a crisis.
He who, proceeding from the feline an-
atomy of cat and lion, would criticize the
man who declared that he took his cat on
his lap and made her purr, basing his
criticism on the undeniable fact that a
lion, instead of purring, would tear out
the man's entrails—such a critic would
reason falsely from zoologic premises.
As falsely, and for parity of reasoning,
does the critic reason who, proceeding
from the broad familyship of the "crisis"
and a protracted breakdown in produc-
tion, denies that the capitalist has in
his power, and exercises the power to
his advantage, to bring about a crisis.

By financial, or industrial crises politi-
cal economy does not understand a
breakdown that engulfs the whole of
society. The crisis is a technical term.
It is a social phenomenon that makes
its first appearance when capitalism
comes of age. Even at that early stage
the crisis is the result of the anarchic
methods of production, which bring on
"want through abundance." Where
"want" and "abundance" are met, it is
not the capitalist class that the "want"
falls to. Its is the "abundance." In-
dividual capitalists may suffer, and do
suffer; their class, the surviving portion,
prosper. Even in the days of Marx and
Engels, when concentration had not yet
reached the pitch it has reached since, and
when the sublimated, or top capitalist,
well described as the "plutocrat," had
not yet really appeared—even in those
days, the fact that the crisis came from
abundance caused the founders of So-
cialism to point to the resulting fact that
epochs of crises were seasons when the
upper capitalist made wholesale confis-
cations. His confiscations in the shop are
like petty larceny, compared with his
confiscations at seasons of crises. In the
shop he confiscates the wealth produced
by Labor. At seasons of crises he con-
fiscates the gathered proceeds of the
confiscations practiced by his fellow but
inferior capitalists. A knowledge, by ex-
perience, of the opportunities offered to
the capitalist by the crisis, and the
knowledge being fortified by the power
conferred by concentration, together with
the plutocratic stage, not only enables
the top capitalist to evoke a crisis when
he wills, but to profit by it at the time
he so decides. To say he has no cash
is to say the lion has no fangs because
the cat has none. The great speech of
Senator La Follette in last year's Senate
is great, indeed, because of the legion of
facts which he marshals to prove that
the crisis of 1907 was engineered and
turned to profit by the top capitalists.

What The People said is correct. What
our critic finds fault with The People
did not say—the capitalist can, and,
whenever he thinks the right moment has
come, he does give the battle known as
the "crisis," whence he emerges all the
more powerful; the capitalist has the
power to smash up things and engulf
society in ruin, but that however he
will not exercise because that would be
even worse than "to cut off his own
fingers"; it would be to play the role of
Old Samson, a role to which the
capitalist is not yet crowded by the
Labor Philistines, and which, when the
Labor Philistines shall have waxed pow-
erful enough to have shorn him of his
locks and put him in bonds, they will
not give him a chance to perform, even
if he were so inclined.

"The People" is the paper that you
want. Straight and Truthful.

UNEMPLOYMENT

IT MERELY MEANS THAT THE WORKINGMAN IS UNABLE TO FIND A
PURCHASER.

Whenever unemployment is spoken of,
what is meant is, that social problem
which faces us in the shape of a large
number of proletariat seeking to sell
their commodity—laborpower—but who
are unable to find capitalists who will
buy the commodity which they offer for
sale.

Many political quacks are abroad ex-
plaining to their own satisfaction, if not
to the present writer's, the causes, and
what they consider to be the remedies of
this particular evil. We have the Tariff
Reformers, some bigoted Teetotalers, who
assert that poverty, &c., is caused by the
drink evil, and the preachers of thrift
frugality and Temperance. We have also
those who, whilst believing that the
capitalist system is the best of all pos-
sible systems, and advocate its conserva-
tion, agree to its being patched up in
some inconceivable way by those who are
wishing of alleviating the distress caused
by the evils which arise out of the sys-
tem. They never seem prepared to do
any of the dirty work of patching up
this rotten system themselves, they leave
that to such a body as the Labor Party.
Some of us think it is not worth while
to spend our energies in patching it up;
we consider the best and most expeditious
way of dealing with the evil effects
of this system would be to end it by
supplanting it with another which would
be more scientific, being based upon
fundamental economic and sociological
truths.

What are the causes of unemploy-
ment? The proximate causes are many,
but the primary root-cause is to be found
in the ownership of land and of the ma-
chinery of production by a small section
of the community; and therefore the ex-
clusion of the rest of the community
from all participation in the ownership
thereof. This latter portion of the com-
munity is allowed to exist only on cer-
tain conditions. The conditions are these:
they must appear—and driven by the
pangs of hunger they do appear—on the
market to sell to the capitalists as a
commodity the energy contained within
their own bodies. The complexity of our
social life is hidden from the mass of the
proletariat, and consequently the capi-
talists are able to keep them divided,
each against the other—in competition
with one another—thereby keeping the
wages which the capitalists pay to them
down at a very low standard.

About three hundred years ago, when
the Capitalistic system was in its in-
fancy, the owner of the machinery ap-
propriated the product, but at that time
the owner was working in most cases as
his trade; he was a master craftsman.
He paid wages to those whom he em-
ployed; but payment of wages was an
exception rather than the rule. A young
man used to go as an apprentice, becom-
ing in time an artisan, and later on ac-
count of the small amount of capital re-
quired to set up in business for himself—
he in most cases became a master craft-
man; so as a general rule a man was
only a wage laborer for a portion of his
working lifetime.

There are several facts to be noted in
this connection, viz.:—

1. That the product was appropriated
by the owner of the implements of pro-
duction, and that this is still done.
2. That wage labor, which was the ex-
ception, has now become the general rule
as a result of industrial and economic
development.

3. That production was mainly for use,
whereas now it is mainly for profit.

4. Unemployment in the modern sense
was unknown.

The position is, then, that the workers
are devoid of the opportunities of becom-
ing individual owners of implements of
production (1) on account of the size of
the implements; and (2) on account of
the monopoly of them; they are com-
pelled to be, therefore, lifelong wage
laborers; they appear on the labor mar-
ket to sell their labor power to the capi-
talists.

The capitalists buy the commodity
labor power, but do not give the workers
an equivalent to that which they as
workers produce. The capitalists buy
other commodities which have been pro-
duced by labor besides this commodity—
labor power. For these other commodi-
ties, they have as a rule to give an equiv-
alent; but, with respect to labor power,
if they gave to the worker the full value
of his product they would have no sur-
plus and capitalism would be at an end.
Labor power is the only commodity sold
on the market which produces an ex-
change value greater than its own ex-
change value. It receives its value, i. e.,
an equivalent to the Social Labor Power
which is necessary to produce the com-
modities which are so essential to the
workers' subsistence and to enable them
to reproduce their kind—so that the
labor market may be always well sup-
plied. The workers produce an equiv-
alent to their cost of subsistence in a few
hours, consequently during the rest of
the time they are working they are pro-

ducing Surplus Value which passes in the
form of Profits, Rent, and Interest, to
the owners of the means of production.
The products of Labor are divided rough-
ly speaking into two portions—profits
and wages, and the greater the portion of
the production which is allotted as profits
the less will be the portion allotted to
wages, and vice versa.

It is to the interest of the capitalists
to keep wages down. To do this neces-
itates their having at their command a
large reserve army of unemployed work-
ers, and as Mr. Charles Booth stated in
his memorable work *Life and Labor*:
"Our modern system will not work with-
out some unemployed margin—some re-
serve of labor. Thus it will be seen that
the capitalist flourishes on the unem-
ployed; for monopoly-wealth is rooted in
labor's poverty, the workers being mere
counters in Mammon's game of greed.
Capital, therefore has need of the un-
employed to maintain its supremacy over
Labor." It has been stated that the
workers receive their cost of subsist-
ence. This implies that the workers live
up to their incomes. Their demand is a
staple demand mainly for the necessities
of life. Their wages are spent almost
at once upon consumable commodities.
When they have bought all they can
there is still a large surplus left on the
market. The capitalist and landlord class
do not consume the portion which is left
to them as fast as the workers are com-
pelled to consume the portion which is
allotted to them, consequently there is
still a surplus left after the wants have
been satiated, and this surplus grows to
huge proportions until the markets be-
come glutted with commodities which no
one seems willing to buy, or if any are
willing, they have not the means of pur-
chasing. This is the phenomenon which
the capitalist economists call over-pro-
duction. Masses of workers are unem-
ployed; men, women and children are
starving—bootless, homeless and hungry
because the workers have produced too
much wealth.

Over-production—in the sense of pro-
ducing more than is sufficient to satisfy
the present needs of a community—may
occur under any system, but under a
system of production for use such could
not have the disastrous effects which
occur under the capitalistic system of
production for profits.

Under our present system every single
capitalist tries to produce as much as
possible, because, other things being
equal, the more goods, the more profit;
only his estimate of the extent of the
demand and his own capacity to enlarge
his capital limit the extent to which he
will produce. Production is for sale, and
what is most important, for quick sale.
Delay or prevention of the sale of a com-
modity is disastrous to its owner; it may
cause his ruin. Through commerce the
general market becomes greatly extended
and more difficult to control. With our
immense productivity of labor and rapid
means of transit, large quantities of mer-
chandise can be brought together quickly.
As soon as there is a great demand for a
commodity in any part of the world-
market it flows thither in large quanti-
ties, until its supply far exceeds the di-
gestive powers of the market. Prices
tumble, firms become bankrupt, an indus-
trial crisis is on, immense masses of capi-
tal are lying idle, being wasted, while the
numbers of the unemployed are enorm-
ously augmented. All this arises out of
our planless, haphazard, happy-go-lucky
system. Those who read between the
lines will see that the present writer
believes the only solution to be the sub-
stitution of an economic system based
on the principle of production for sale—
for profit. Such a system implies the
Social Ownership and control of all the
means of Production, Distribution and
Exchange.—G. Brown, in the Oxford,
England, "Plebs."

Amalgamated Carpenters Turn on Brotherhood

Chicago, March 23.—The Amalgamated
Woodworkers Union has adopted resolu-
tions which declare for non-affiliation
with the Brotherhood of Carpenters and
Joiners. The reason for this action is set
forth in a statement which says that, in
the protracted struggle carried on be-
tween the two organizations numerous
conferences were held, and that the U. I.
C. and J. refused to abide by the decision
of the umpire appointed by the American
Federation of Labor.

Canadian Coal Miners Win Demands

Winnipeg, Man., March 24.—There will
be no strike of coal miners of southern
Alberta and southern British Columbia.
Miners forced the operators to an agree-
ment at McLeod, Alberta, last night.
The miners get better wages and
hours.



UNCLE SAM AND

BROTHER JONATHAN.

BROTHER JONATHAN—I heard last
evening a remarkably sound argument
put up by a pure and simple physical
forist against the Socialist Labor Party.

UNCLE SAM (putting a hand at each
ear)—Let me hear it, by all means. It
will be the first sound argument I would
have heard advanced against the S. L. P.
by pure and simple physical forists, or
anybody else, for that matter.

B. J.—Well, he started saying that the
S. L. P. objects to "boring from with-
in!"

U. S.—You mean to say he "started
lying?"

B. J.—Doesn't the S. L. P. object to
"boring from within?"

U. S.—The S. L. P. objects to "boring
from within only." The S. L. P. is
neither a scattered-brain concern that
does not know what it says, nor is it a
bankrupt concern looking after shakels,
and parroting, for the sake of shakels,
every nonsense that some fool may say,
hoping to propitiate fools.

B. J.—Well, what does the S. L. P.
say on the matter of "boring?"

U. S.—Being a sane body, the S. L. P.
knows that some people may be so situ-
ated that they cannot pull out, and
bore "from without." They will have to
do their boring "from within." Being
an intelligent body, the S. L. P. knows
that no amount of boring "from within"
will do any good if there are not others
more favorably situated who can bore
"from without."

B. J.—Then the real S. L. P. position
is—

U. S.—Bore from within and bore
from without—bore wherever you can.

B. J.—Then the rest of that pure and
simple physical forist's argument breaks
down. It was grounded on false pre-
mises.

U. S.—Like all pure and simple physi-
cal forist argument. All the same, I'd
like to hear the kind of reasoning that
he reared on his false foundation. What
was it?

B. J.—He argued that the S. L. P.
contradicted itself. It was against
boring from within, and yet it believed
in boring from within the capitalist gov-
ernment by voting for and trying to
elect S. L. P. representatives in Con-
gress.

U. S.—Just as I expected. I expect
to see the sapient, pure and simpler not
only start from false premises, but draw
conclusions that are false, even from his
own false premises.

B. J.—Are his conclusions false, even
if his premises were right?

U. S.—Absolutely false. A body may
be against "boring from within," and yet
be justified to elect Congressmen. The
reason is simple. To "bore from

CORRESPONDENCE

[Correspondents who prefer to appear in print under an assumed name will attach such name to their communications, besides their own signature and address. None other will be recognized.]

FARMERS ENDORSE THE PEOPLE.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—This is an out-of-the-way place for S. L. P. men; there are in proportion two Democrats to one Republican in the county. In passing the paper to most of the rock-ribbed party men to read it strikes them as something entirely new and they don't quite catch on at first but when its contents are explained they approve of it. Enclosed find P.-O. order for \$1 for renewal for one year. The farmers here, that is, a part of them, have organized into a farmers' union. Some of their principles, as far as I know, declare for co-operation. They feel the pinch of Capitalism and the trusts, and can be led in the right direction.

H. H. Meyer.
Fair Dealing, Mo., March 22.

S. L. P. PUBLICATIONS SELL WELL.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—The works of Eugene Sue and the book of August Bebel, all published by the Socialist Labor Party, find ready sales out here in California. I have sold Sue books recently to the amount of \$7.50. An enthusiastic purchaser was E. C. Moore, superintendent of the Los Angeles schools. He wants the whole set of 19 volumes. Bebel's book on "Woman Under Socialism" finds a good sale among the woman suffragists and women doctors. In a short time I have sold \$25.50 worth of these books. Let others try. They can do the same thing.

S. A. J. Stodell.
Los Angeles, Cal., March 14.

PLECHANOFF CONGRATULATED.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—Do you know the first time I did after reading in the Weekly People that fine spanking that Plechanow gave the Untermyans, showing them to be a lot of pretentious wind-jammers? Well, the first thing I did was to go and see a friend who knows Plechanow, and have him write to Plechanow, congratulating him for not being here in America.

If Plechanow were active in the American movement, such clear proof as he gave of the shallowness and worthlessness of Untermyan, and the rest of the Untermyans, in our glorious S. P., would have immediately brought down upon him a torrent of the billingsgate with which the several elements that run the S. P. refute the charges proved against them.

The Simons-Wanhope element would immediately have declared that Plechanow was envious of them; and that he cannot stand anybody who shows any intelligence, and that he tries to run them out of the party.

The Barnes-Hanford element would immediately parble some statements made by Plechanow, and declare that Plechanow is a horrible scab and a union saboteur, and that all his friends are scabs.

The element made up of runaway embezzlers from Berlin, and other European capitalists, would start whispering that Plechanow had broken into the Bank of Moscow, and was now living on the loot.

All of them together would join in one howl; that Plechanow is subsidized by the capitalists to break up the only party of labor—the S. P.

This friend of Plechanow's, whom I saw, saw the point, and agrees with me that Plechanow should be congratulated for not living here, and thus escaping the punishment he justly merits for not being satisfied with charging the Untermyans with what they are but with proving his charge. Plechanow is an old man, I understand, nearly sixty years old. He would grieve under such rough treatment; my younger generation grow fat and witty over it.

Mrs. X. Y. Z.
Chicago, March 21.

THE BENIGHTED "APPEALER."

To the Daily and Weekly People:—I send you a subscription which I received from an S. P. man. He is a reader of the "Appeal." He understands little of Socialism, but prides himself upon the fact that there are millionaires and ministers in his organization. I called his attention to the fact that it is convenient for some clergymen, who are without congregations, to turn to Socialism and thereby

attract workmen into their churches. He caught on. D. Rudnick.
Forest Park, Ill., March 23.

"ORGANIZED LABOR'S" DESPICABLE TRICKS.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—It would be pretty hard to beat the "Jobs Are Myths" story, in the "Weekly People" of March 6, as an expose of the fraudulent claims of that part of the capitalist press that is yelling its head off about the "labor scarcity," and the opportunities open to those who are willing to work, "out in the country."

Yes, it would be hard to beat it! For all that, I came across a piece of news, a week or so ago, which, for downright meanness matches it.

We know very well what is behind the "scarcity of labor in the farming districts" cry. We know that the liars who do the dirty work of capitalism, seek to obscure the fact that there is little or no work to be obtained by hundreds of thousands in the cities by shouting that "the farmers are badly in need of help!" In this way do they seek to relieve capitalism of the responsibility for the painfully evident breakdown of the industrial structure, which, as we know, showers new miseries on the already heavy-laden workers, and to place it on the shoulders of "the men who don't want work," "the drunken loafers of the bread lines," "who won't leave the cities."

It may be that the insult thus heaped upon injury will be rammed down the throat of capitalism and its spokesmen some day. As Tom McClelland said in a historic moment in the Cripple Creek war, "We'll attend to that when we come to it." Now for the matter of which I spoke.

Mr. Earl exposes the fraudulency of the advertisements for men to work in the fields of Nebraska. A little while ago the character of similar advertisements, appearing in Denver and Salt Lake daily papers, was also shown up. There was this difference between them:

The advertisements which aroused the ire of Mr. Earl were the work of capitalists seeking to cover their tracks. The advertisements of which I speak were the work of trade unionists, the paid agents and representatives of "organized labor," their object being to lure non-union men of different trades from Denver and Salt Lake to the cities of the Pacific Coast by making it appear that, out there, there was work aplenty at high wages.

Just as Mr. Earl found that the Nebraska jobs were myths, so did the unfortunate, who spent their last dollar getting to the Coast, or who beat their way, begging food en route, find that jobs said to be crying for men existed not even in the minds of the men who wrote the advertisements. They found the Pacific Coast cities sadly overcrowded with men looking for employment, and failing to find it.

Investigation developed the fact that they were the victims of men in the pay of the unions of Denver and Salt Lake, the object of whom was to unload the menace of non-union men on the cities of the Coast, in absolute indifference as to what happened to the non-union or the union men there, and thus secure the jobs to those within the pale, who paid them to do this particularly dirty piece of work.

One of the results of the enjury was the indictment of one Hall, of Denver, a business agent of the unions, on the charge of fraudulent use of the mails. It is said that other indictments are pending against the Salt Lake men who perpetrated the outrage.

It would be easy to moralize at length on the foregoing, but a few remarks should suffice. We are inclined, sometimes, to place the responsibility for the callous crimes of a like nature on the shoulders of the man with the india-rubber conscience, the smiling, cynical, well-fed business agent. My opinion is that the man who stands back of him, keeps him in his place and accepts the fruits of his crime against our class—the man of the rank and file—is equally guilty. It is time that a sense of what is being done in his name is brought home to him.

I must confess that it makes me laugh whenever I read of tricks of this nature being played in the name of "organized labor." But the laugh is a bitter one. There may be farce in these things; certainly there is tragedy. Here we have a body of "organized labor" victimizing in a scoundrelly manner men of the working class whom "organized labor" could not organize if it would, and would not if it could. They, the men of "organized labor" in Denver and Salt

Lake, are "brothers" to the unionists of the Coast. Yet they hesitate not a moment in deluging them with a hungry and penniless horde of unemployed. Unionism, this? Organized labor, this? Noah Webster had better come to earth again and revise his dictionary to make the terms accord with the practices of old line unionists, not only in Denver and Salt Lake, but all over America.

And it is so futile, this trick of Mr. Business Agent Hall and his fellows. Is it not certain that the men lured to the Pacific Coast by the fake advertisements will again drift back to Denver and Salt Lake, wiser and more resolute in their position because of the fact that they understand the imposition that has been practised upon them? Then the union men who sought to secure a monopoly of the jobs in their respective localities will be no better off than they were at first, if not worse.

If I were asked to characterize this particular phase of labor "unionism," I would call it a mixture of criminality, idiocy and cruelty.

H. J. Brimble.
Boulder, Colo., March 9, 1909.

A WORD TO LITHO WORKERS.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—In yesterday's issue of the Daily People there is quoted a statement made by Wm. A. Coakley, President of the Litho. Feeders' Union, that the new tariff rates upon lithographic work are not satisfactory. I would state to the aforesaid gentleman and his fellow members that those who build on false hopes must expect to be disappointed. If he had taken the advice of the so-called "tearers down" (S. L. P. members) in the union to read the Daily or Weekly People and some of the literature published by the Labor News Co. by this time he might have learnt something, and would not be spending time and money chasing soap bubbles.

But it is never too late to mend. Why don't the feeders awaken from their lethargy and not sit like a lot of frightened school-boys and believe all that an A. F. of L. speaker, who is twenty years behind the times, tells them? Nor do those rich ladies who have plenty of leisure know anything of the labor question, except that they will not get off labor's back.

Why should not feeders think and study for themselves? They talk a lot about a square deal, therefore they might play fair themselves. Let I. W. W. speakers address them. These are abreast of the times, and will teach workmen how to emancipate the Working Class from wage slavery.

Unlo.
New York, March 24.

AN EXPLANATION FROM MISS NESBITT, CHRISTIAN SOCIALIST.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—I wish to thank Axel Staal for his rectifying my mistake as regards his attitude towards Christian Socialists. Allow me to explain how I came to accept his outspoken criticism of the organization of a "Christian Fellowship" as only another evidence of intolerance shown to Christians claiming to be Socialists.

Besides reading of Parlor Socialists and "Intellectuals" in newspaper paragraphs openly sneering at the claims of those outside of the "army of the unemployed" to be in revolt against existing conditions, I encountered considerable incredulity in speech and look (often quite as full of meaning) when I claimed to be a "Christian Socialist." "It is impossible to reconcile Christianity and revolution"—that is a common idea among many comrades. I confess, it has many times made me feel like an alien, for in the church I had found no one who did not look with suspicion on one who was not politically orthodox and Socialists would hardly credit a combination of the two.

You will readily believe then that I was delighted to find "The Christian Socialist" in a stationer's, and read there that "Christ's teachings cannot be applied as we would like under the present system of oppression," or words to that effect. A little of the loneliness departed, but I have not joined the party, for I shrewdly suspect that they follow the example set by the S. P. in sticking to "political action only."

Like you, Comrade Staal, I do NOT believe it right to form exclusive little bodies and try to revolutionize conditions by airing platitudes. Not only do I stand for international unity—but for inter-denominational unity—of course, there are breakers ahead: bigotry, intolerance, short-sightedness, reform instead of revolution, fawning on religious plutocrats, timidity as to appropriation, schism, treachery and desertion. There should be one party, not many, struggling for world-wide emancipation. But we cannot help our differences of opinion. Cannot a Christian Comrade fight side by side with an atheist and a Mohammedan in the same cause? Assuredly we can. And I claim

to have some faithful friends who are agnostics.

Elizabeth Nesbitt.
Scugog, Canada, March 16.

"OUR VIRTUOUS" POLICE.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—It is not a novelty to a Socialist to see police club the workers back to work when on strike. But if there is anywhere a limit they have certainly overstepped it in the instance of the striking bakers of the Bronx. Offensive insults and brutal clubbing on the slightest provocation, or for no reason at all, is the order of the day. Lies, perjury and false witness is common by the "officers of the law."

Here is an illustration: I was standing in front of the strikers' headquarters at No. 750 Wendover avenue on Monday last, when I saw Mr. Fishler (one of the bosses), run after a striker and assault him.

Before I had time to interfere a "cop" came on the run, grabbed the striker (not the boss) and began to beat him. I protested to the captain and got punched and arrested for my trouble. The next day in court the captain of the Tremont Police Station, Mr. Lincoln Gray, charged me with inciting to riot; going into Fishler's store and throwing the bread on the floor, calling everybody in the place of a "scab," and assaulting the proprietor.

Upon being asked by my lawyer what he did when he saw me do all these things Captain Gray answered: "I told him to please go away." Then he went on saying that I went in front of the headquarters and made a speech, which caused a crowd to collect, and when he tried to disperse them I told them to stay as they had a right to do so. Then he placed me under arrest. Such were his charges.

Evidently, I must have done all these things while asleep, for I do not recollect having done so in my waking hours, and what is more, I don't think I had the spunk to do them. But all these "ere sworn to by an officer of the law, a captain." "So help him Gott!" "Oh, ye gods!"

John S. Kandel.
New York, March 18.

COMMUNE FESTIVAL IN CLEVELAND.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—The Commune festival of Section Cleveland, Socialist Labor Party, is a thing of the past. While this festival is a "well established institution" with the Section, always drawing big and enthusiastic crowds, this year's event surpassed all former in point of attendance, financial and social success. The program was not very long but consisted entirely of first class offerings. Boehm's well directed and managed orchestra did better than ever and showed decidedly improved training. The Socialistiche Liedertafel pleased the audience with its rendition of two splendid revolutionary songs. Miss Clara Alzahn received well merited applause for her soprano solo, "That's What the Rose Said to Me." The young lady possesses, though not a strong, yet a soft and clear voice, and sings with a grasp of the composer's intentions. Long applause called forth an encore. Miss Alzahn is the daughter of our old and loyal warhorse, Hermann Alzahn.

John D. Goerke recited, with appropriate expression and deep feeling, the beautiful poem, "The Promise of the Future," for which he received prolonged and enthusiastic applause.

The "headliner" of the program, however, was the one act social drama, "Ein Verlorener," (A Ruined Life) by Richard Koepfel, in connection with which a grand tableaux, "At the Anvil of the New Time," was presented. This called forth such spontaneous and enthusiastic applause that the curtain had to be raised several times. Goerke has written the following criticism on the play:

"The production of the dramatic sketch, 'Ein Verlorener,' by members of Section Cleveland at the last Commune Festival, has proven one thing conclusively. In my conception of things theatrical, the author (Richard Koepfel) will never be a successful playwright. There is no market for such intellectual product to-day, and to cater to the distorted notions of morality of present society seems impossible for an exponent with pure ideals. No credit is due the author for his desire to portray the perverted, filthy and hypocritical conceptions of religion, law and order, respectability and morality of capitalist society, because he is a Socialist. But to do all this in a short dramatic sketch that is intensely interesting, comprehensive, entertaining and, above all, convincing, and what is more, to do it in language, in dramatic situations and climaxes without offending the sensitive ear or eye, is the tremendous task which the author apparently attempts. Koepfel has succeeded to an admirable degree, which shows praiseworthy dramatic skill.

"The book is fine. But the most satisfactory feature of last Sunday's performance consisted in the fact that those to whom the task was assigned of interpreting the play on the stage understood the author. We have all seen them before,

and know that those who took part in the production, have talent of no mean degree. Ed. Hauser did well as usual, but—memorize your lines, Edward, and you will be surprised what an impression you could make as 'Robert.' Koepfel, as 'Heiser,' had a difficult character to portray, and he did splendid. With the exception of one or two false attitudes his playing would have made one believe he was a professional. It is saying much for an amateur who can draw tears from an audience. Haug, Zuelsdorf, filled the bill, but our friend seems to be too much in a hurry when speaking. Gessner made a good paragon, and although he has always been able to play the peculiar parts satisfactorily that have been assigned to him in the past, it was pleasing to note last Sunday that his work was not in the least overdrawn but decidedly natural, which is quite an achievement when one considers how hard it must be to act a dominion without overdoing it. Pimamer, Waller, acted the part of the self-satisfied brutally hypocritical capitalist in a convincing manner. Polster is an actor. His portrayal of Lehman, the good old and loyal servant of his master was a piece of art which was perfect. As a policeman Hendrich was good. A policeman who can hide his brutal ignorance behind a thick wall of silence, 'move on,' when told to do so, and mind his own business, suits me to perfection."

Spectator.
Cleveland, O., March 25.

THE ECONOMIC ASPECT OF THE RELIGION OF ISRAEL.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—Every Socialist is familiar with the argument derived from the Marxian materialistic interpretation of history. As a very pregnant illustration let us cite briefly a point in the early history of the Semite race. The progenitors of Judaism were nomads, differing but slightly in manner and modes of thought and life from the wandering Arab and Berber tribes of the present day. Each clan or group had its tutelary deity, who was regarded as a member of the clan, and was in point of fact very frequently a deified ancestor of the chief. He was the protector of the clan in all its wanderings, while limited in his powers by his rivals of other clans. At the common meal of all the clans their clan god was believed to be an unseen but punctual guest. To him was unfailingly offered a portion of the repast, and out of the simple heartfelt social-religious custom grew the more elaborate offerings and hosts of the later cults.

As the communal organizations increased in number, alliances were formed. Not long before the appearance of Moses as the first great labor leader of history, something like a national confederation had taken place in several parts of the Semitic world. These confederations involved, in the case of the Israelites at least, the selection of one out of the clan deities, the Elohim, and he was the god of the chief chosen for the amalgamated groups. It was in point of fact a Monolatry, rather than a Monotheism, and it is based, as we see, upon monarchical grounds and economic or political necessities.

Comrade.
Meadville, Pa., March 15, 1909.

THE RUSSIAN PROLETARIAN MOVEMENT.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—There are various views regarding the political affairs of Russia. Each has his own conception concerning the present crisis in the revolutionary camp of the Russian proletariat. Considering myself among those who are interested in the struggle for freedom, which the Russian people have been striving for, I would like to express my ideas on the present reaction among the Russian proletariat.

The average American citizen considers the internal affairs of Russia in the following light:

The activity of the revolutionists has slackened for the last two years, consequently, the desire for freedom among the people has waned, and for this reason the reactionary forces of the empire have decidedly taken advantage, and have gained absolute control in the struggle for a despotic political rule in the country. Such reasoning, to my mind, is misleading.

The history of the Russian revolution is nothing but a record of bloodshed and sacrifice on the part of the Russian proletariat in their struggle for constitutional freedom. The proletariat masses being too poor financially, and lacking the necessary equipment which the exigency of the occasion demanded, were not prepared to meet the enemy. This is one of the reasons that Russia suffered a decline. There is another reason for the general decline of the revolutionary spirit among her proletariat; it is due to the silence and the lethargy of the "after-cant and the people of Europe." In vain did the Russian people appeal to America for financial and moral support; the citizens of America appeared indifferent, just as if the historic struggle of the Russian proletariat did not concern them.

LETTER-BOX

OFF-HAND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.
NO QUESTIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED THAT COME IN ANONYMOUS LETTERS. ALL LETTERS MUST CARRY A BONA FIDE SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS.

"ANXIOUS," TORONTO, CAN.

The Fabian Socialist Society derives its name from Fabius Maximus, who was appointed dictator at Rome after the first disastrous defeat administered to the Romans by Hannibal, and whose military tactics consisted, never in aggression, but in harassing manoeuvres. Fabian Socialism differs from S. L. P. Socialism in that the latter is militant, whereas the law of the former's existence, being indefinitely prolonged, becomes abstract star-gazing.

T. C. J., BRIGHTON, MASS.—The number of volunteers for any class of work determines the hardness of the work. The lighter the work the more numerous the volunteers; the harder the fewer, if any. Hence, under Socialism, the relative value in exchange of 1 hour's work in any department is easily settled by the relative number of applicants in other departments. Say that three times as many volunteers would present themselves for one class of work than for another, this would be proof that three hour's work of the former would equal one of the latter. The shorter hours of the latter would, in turn, draw more applicants. Equalization would follow.

A. H., ST. LOUIS, MO.—The Pope who first suppressed the Order of the Jesuits was Clement XIV. He did so by bull on July 12, 1773. The bull is known as: "Dominus ac Redemptor Noster."

J. M., CHICAGO, ILL.—The line of least resistance leads neither downward, nor upward, nor sideways. It leads in the direction where resistance is slightest. In some cases that may be upwards, in other cases otherwise.

T. G., CHICAGO, ILL.—There is no reason to believe that "the cowering which the Socialist Labor Party is administering to the 'Socialist party'" on the subject of immigration will improve the latter. The S. P. in national convention one time declared that the A. F. of L. was "nobly waging the class struggle." The S. L. P. whaled the S. P. for such a corrupt statement. The S. P. felt the castigation and dropped that resolution. But did it improve its practice? None the least. It will be no better in the matter of immigration. It took Hercules a full day to clean the Augean stables. It would be a Sisyphean job to attempt to clean the S. P. stable.

A. S. A., PEORIA, ILL.—Conservatism is not wholly bad. It is a way station, where the train of Progress stops until it can go safely forward. The sanely conservative instinct will, for instance, rest at Capitalism until the move forward can be made to Socialism. There will be no half-way station of half-baked Socialism. For the same reason also our working people will remain at the present craft union stage of organization, or disorganization, until ready to move forward into true Socialist or Industrial Unionism, uniting upon the political as well as the economic field. There will be no half-way station on that either.

S. P. B., STAMFORD, CONN.—Ben Tucker's "Liberty" is the only really good Anarchist paper. All the others we know of are stupidity stupidly advocated. "Liberty" is stupidity very entertainingly advocated. Unfortunately it appears only "once in a while."

J. B., NEW YORK.—The Labor News publications.

W. H. S., AVA, MO.—The money power is with the S. P. Hence it attracts the large number of menials who

Such an unexpected blow to the poverty-stricken masses of Russia caused discouragement, and directly aided the brutal might of the Czar's forces. This is the main reason that hindered the progress of the revolutionists and caused despa in the country.

Taking into consideration the treatment which Gorky received in this country, the conclusion is justified that the capitalist class, with its press, acted as agents for the Czar, to befoul the name and character of the Russian revolutionist so that his influence should not affect the conservative disposition of the American, as such might create a desire to render some help to the Russians. Such hypocritical and vicious conduct of the capitalist class was allowed to pass by the working people of this country.

The American working people have been misled to such an extent that another crime had been committed under the grotesque appearance of passiveness and indifference. When the Czar appealed for financial aid, the capitalists of

are all things to all men, lest the money power be scared away, and pay decline.

H. S. C., LOS ANGELES, CAL.—The only good thing the convicted Bush Temple Slum Anarchists did being to kill themselves so dead that their paper sputters regularly only at irregular intervals of from 2 to 9 weeks, preparatorily to giving up the ghost altogether. The People does not feel charitably enough disposed to lend its columns to the propagation of confusion by means of an interminable thrashing and rethrashing of old straws. There must be an end to dispute. That end has been reached and passed. The Cause of Labor can rest its case against Bush Temple upon what Bush Temple itself has published.

T. S. C., NEW YORK.—As a figure of speech, what objection can there be to calling Moses a Labor Leader? He certainly engineered a big strike. True enough he did not act as the labor lieutenant of the Pharaohs, nor did he ever seek to get the Pharaohs to check-off the dues of the Jews, nor did he do any of the things common, to pure and simple labor leadership. But he did the right thing by his people, who were of his class.

D. B. M., GRANITE, OKLA.—Now to the eighth and last question—

If by "early American democracy" is understood the early New England colonies, its economic foundation was communism, so stated in their early documents.

If by "early American democracy" is understood the democracy that sprung up with independence from Great Britain, its economic foundation was infant bourgeoisie.

F. L., CHICAGO, ILL.—Now to your third and last question—

Translated are all the 19 stories of the Sue series. Published in book form are now 9. In the bindery are two more about to come out. The remaining eight will be turned out as fast as mechanical facilities will allow. Besides the two now in the bindery, there will surely be out two more during the current year, if not three or four.

W. A. S., SIDNEY, N. S. W.—All your remaining questions are answered in the Address issued by the N. E. C. of the S. L. P. at its last (January) session. It must have reached you shortly after your letter was written. The day of the Socialist vote is not yet.

"X. Y. Z.," ERIE, PA.—If the wages of Labor are in excess of the exchange value of Labor at any given social stage, then Labor would be receiving back a portion of the surplus value which it produced. What is the point aimed at?

P. O., DENVER, COLO.—It is not strength that moves the men seen resisting truth. It is weakness. Hence such people will ever be seen leaning upon and taken in by crooks. "He that hates truth shall be the dupe of lies."

C. L., ALTOONA, PA.—Shall be attended to.

ALL OTHERS.—Next week.

R. C., SPOKANE, WASH.; W. T. L., MONTREAL, CANAD.; B. H. H., MILWAUKEE, WIS.; G. A., MONTCLAIR, COLO. D. S. L., CENTER BARSTEAD, N. H.; E. B., COLUMBUS, O.; G. A. M., TORONTO, CAN.; S. A. J. S., LOS ANGELES, CAL.; J. E. F., NORTH BAY, ONT.—Matter received.

America, France and England readily helped him out.

This proves to my satisfaction that the capitalist class of this country and Europe are closely allied with the monarchy of Russia, consequently there is international unity between the exploiters.

Now, when I review the situation of the working class I see nothing else but disruption and disunity. Let the fact be remembered that due to the indifference of American citizens towards the appeal of the Russian proletariat, Russia may for a while continue its rule, and oppress the people more than before, thereby causing much hardship and misery. We may have to ask for help of our foreign brothers in the future. It can easily be imagined how they, on the other side, will respond.

Max Biell.
Pasadena, Cal., March 16, 1909.

When you have read this paper, pass it on to a friend.

